



SHORT CUTS

Drilling down a bit on union numbers

The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics' Feb. 18 release of their annual "Union Members Summary" offered a few more tidbits beyond the nation's unionization rate, seen elsewhere on this page. Here are a few:

- In 1983, the first year for which comparable data is available, the U.S. union membership rate was 20.1 percent and there were 17.7 million union members. In 2025, that rate had dropped to 10.0 percent and there were 14.6 million union members.

- The union membership rate of public-sector workers in 2025 (32.9 percent, up 0.7 percent vs. 2024) continued to be more than five times higher than the rate of private-sector workers (5.9 percent, unchanged).

- Workers in education, training, and library occupations (32.5 percent) and in protective service occupations (31.3 percent) had the highest unionization rates.

- Black workers remained more likely to be union members (11.4 percent) than White (9.9 percent), Hispanic (8.9 percent) and Asian (8.7 percent) workers.

- Union workers enjoyed a 16 percent median weekly wage advantage over nonunion workers (\$1,174 versus \$1,404).

- Men continued to have a higher union membership rate (10.4 percent) than women (9.6 percent).

- By age, workers ages 45 to 54 had the highest union membership rate in 2025, at 12.6 percent. Younger workers – those ages 16 to 24 – had the lowest union membership rate, at 4.7 percent.

Infrastructure work bolsters industry

Total construction starts expanded 0.7 percent in January to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1.24 trillion, according to a report released Feb. 20 by Dodge Construction Network.

Dodge said nonbuilding (usually infrastructure) starts grew 24.3 percent over the month, which buoyed the numbers. Meanwhile, nonresidential building starts fell by 15.4 percent, while residential starts decreased 6.4 percent.

On a year-over-year basis, total construction starts were up 5.0 percent from January 2025. Again, infrastructure work stood out as an employer, rising 46.1 percent from January 2025 to January 2026.

Meanwhile, for those 12 months, nonresidential starts were down 10.3 percent, while residential starts declined 17.0 percent.

"Nonbuilding construction remained the primary engine of growth in the first month of 2026," stated Eric Gaus Chief Economist at Dodge Construction Network. "Three mega projects in the nonbuilding sector accounted for nearly \$20 billion or almost half of the growth in January, which would mean total construction would have been negative without those three projects."

Regionally, the West (-21.1 percent) and the Midwest (-12.6 percent) were the major drags on the construction starts in January.

Quotable

"Few people think more than two or three times a year; I have made an international reputation for myself by thinking once or twice a week."

—George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)



SETTING UP STRUCTURAL IRON for a lift at the the Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building project are Iron Workers Local 25 members Julio Bowerson and Alex Sanford. They're employed by Commercial Contracting Corp.

Oakland CC builds out science, nursing hub

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

FARMINGTON HILLS – Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus is in the process of becoming the institution's new center for science and nursing education.

Barton Malow, its subcontractors and building trades union workers are working on transforming a former physical education building and adding space, creating a 127,000-square-foot home for the school's Health Sciences and Nursing Program, consolidating operations from the school's other campuses.

On site, OCC will offer courses in dental hygiene, diagnostic medical sonography, health care administration, medical assisting, nursing, radiologic technology, respiratory therapy and surgical technology. The new space on the campus east of Farmington Road and south of I-696 will include exam rooms, respiratory labs, bio labs, chemistry, physics and geology labs, and more.

"These renovations will allow us to take our academic programs to the next level," said OCC Executive Director of Health Professions and Dean of Nursing Tanya McFadden. "The new lab spaces and simulation center will not only be cutting-edge but also support interdisciplinary medical simulations. Students across our Health Sciences and Nursing program will collaborate while working on high-tech mannequins that simulate everything from fevers to childbirth. The opportunities for students will be unlimited."

Health programs will occupy the first floor of the building, while the second floor will include new and updated science labs. A dental hygiene addition is also in the works. OCC's

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UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE of journeyman Gary Ballard, second-year apprentice James King lifts a 16x14 duct section into place in a hallway at the OCC - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building in Farmington Hills. The Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 members are employed by Ventcon.



ON THE LEVEL – Damon Orvelo of Sprinkler Fitters Local 704 checks the pitch of a pipe while working in a stairwell at the Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building. He's employed by Shambaugh and Son.

Dems wonder why OSHA probes, fines are down

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A group of Democratic senators on Feb. 19 released data that said the Trump Administration's Occupational Safety and Health Administration performed 20 percent fewer inspections and issued 42 percent fewer fines for severe workplace violations in 2025.

It's an indication "that the Trump Department of Labor may be discouraging inspectors from

enforcing workplace safety laws," the senators wrote in a letter directed to Labor Department Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer.

"Your agency has tried to cloak your deregulatory agenda in the language of 'putting workers first,' but the reality is that the Labor Department is prioritizing the interests of unscrupulous employers over Americans who work hard in dangerous environments

to provide for their families."

The letter was signed by U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Angela Alsobrooks (D-Md.), Tammy Baldwin (D-Ill.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.).

"If employers know that they are unlikely to face hefty fines, they may be less likely to adhere to safety standards that keep

\$16B tunnel project resumes; Trump still seeks its shutdown

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

The suspension of one of the nation's largest infrastructure projects, The Gateway-Hudson Rail Tunnel, resumed Feb. 23 after the courts ended a hiatus that put 1,000 union construction workers on the bench for two weeks. But President Trump is still seeking to halt the project – as well as the building trades jobs it's delivering.

The \$16 billion tunnel under construction between New York and New Jersey, which had been underway for two years, had its federal funding cut off by the Trump Administration. The Administration offered shifting reasons for halting the project, including a lack of compliance with "disadvantaged enterprise programs" and use of "unconstitutional Diversity, Equity and Inclusion principles."

It was also widely reported that Trump said he would release tunnel funding in return for having his name placed on Penn Station and Dulles Airport, a demand that originated from a conversation he had with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.

"This funding freeze was unlawful from the start," said New York Attorney General Letitia James on Feb. 18. "We took swift action in court, and now every dollar that was illegally withheld has been released. This morning, New York and New Jersey received the remaining nearly \$130 million owed for the Gateway Project, finally unlocking all the funding that had been frozen."

"These funds should never have been withheld in the first place. I am thrilled that hardworking New Yorkers can now get back on the job and move forward with the most important infrastructure project in the country."

Shumer disclosed the renaming demand after a conversation with Trump, and the president denied saying he wanted his name on the train station and airport. But Trump spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt contradicted her boss in a response to a related question in a press conference on Feb. 10: "About renaming, why not? It is something the president floated in his conversation with Chuck Schumer," she said.

Trump actually cut off funds

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U.S. unions eke out modest membership gain, despite obstacles

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – There's not too much to get excited about one way or another with the annual release of union membership numbers from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Yes, organized labor welcomed the BLS news released Feb. 18 that said the number of union members in the U.S. increased by 410,000 in 2025, to 14.66 million, after a flat rate was reported a year ago. And the overall union share of the U.S. workforce rose just a bit, by 0.1 percent, to 10.0 percent, despite an historically anti-union Trump Administration. And the nation's building trades unions saw a membership gain for the third straight year.

But – the union membership numbers came with a prominent proviso from the Labor Department, which said the numbers did not include data from October due to the government shutdown. The BLS said it makes this year's numbers "not strictly comparable with annual averages for other years."

Moreover, the numbers also likely don't accurately reflect the workplace havoc wrought by the

Trump Administration within the federal government last year. The numbers from the BLS included a loss of about 175,000 workers from federal jobs, while the workers' unions and House

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Building trades numbers also rise, but deficit vs. nonunion barely budes

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Building trades unions enjoyed a bump up in membership in 2025, with the organized portion of the industry now making up 11.1 percent of the nation's workforce. That was up from the 10.3 percent workforce penetration that unionized Hardhats had in 2024.

"North America's Building Trades Unions gained 47,198 net new members across 14 crafts last year, despite widespread industry disruption," said NABTU President Sean McGarvey. "This follows nearly 100,000 net new members added in 2023 and 2024. This growth is the direct result of a century-long commitment to workforce development, sustained through collectively bargained investments and reinforced by federal infrastructure and energy policies enacted in recent years."

Today's construction unions are a fraction of their strength in the peak 1950s or even the 1970s. The *Engineering News Record* said in 1975, the Wharton School of Business reported that union coverage had slipped to 40-50 percent

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Coalition: clean energy + union jobs = A winning combo

By Cameron Harrison

LANSING – Union leaders representing over a million Michigan workers stood together on Feb. 10 to launch the Michigan Climate Jobs Coalition (MICJ), a new alliance dedicated to ensuring that the state's transition to a clean energy economy is built by and for the working class.

The coalition, announced at a press conference in Lansing, unveiled a detailed 17-point policy blueprint developed with Cornell University's Climate Jobs Institute. The plan is a direct

challenge to corporate-driven climate agendas, insisting that the jobs of the future must be union jobs, and that tackling the climate crisis must address soaring energy costs, inequality, and community health.

"Today, we launched Michigan Climate Jobs to ensure a worker-led clean energy future that puts labor in the driver's seat to lead on combating the climate crisis, making energy affordable and reliable, and protecting workers today and for generations to come," said Ryan Bennett, chair

of MICJ, business manager of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 174, and president of the Michigan Pipe Trades Association. "The jobs needed to create the clean energy economy absolutely must be union jobs because

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A FEB. 10 PRESS CONFERENCE launched the announcement of a push for greater union involvement in clean energy construction and other initiatives.

Photo credit: Solar Power World



Viewpoints



Put union label on labor law

Trump notwithstanding, America’s unions actually grew last year.

Only a pro-employer labor law is keeping millions of American workers from the benefits of unionizing.

Yesterday (Feb. 18), we learned that despite Trump’s war on unions, which included canceling the government’s contracts with unions representing 1 million federal workers, the number and share of union members actually grew in 2025 for the first time in many years. One of the few sectors in which the number and share of union members did continue to shrink was manufacturing, where overall jobs declined by 80,000 last year, even though this is the one sector that Trump insists his tariffs will boost.

That certainly doesn’t mean that all Trump policy is sound and fury signifying nothing; most of the time, it signifies dark and evil changes to life in these United States, which Americans must hope they can reverse.

The gains in union membership weren’t huge, but that there were any gains at all following decades of decline was news in itself. Union membership grew by 410,000 in 2025, which boosted the overall share of union members in the American workforce from 9.9 percent to 10.0 percent, while the unionized share of private-sector workers stayed steady at 5.9 percent.

Most of the gain came among public-sector workers, whose unionized ranks increased in the local, state, and even federal government workforces. Almost any governmental entity is more open to its workers unionizing than almost any private employer. Elected governmental officials are answerable, after all, to voters – a public including union members – while corporate executives are answerable only to major investors and the looming gods of Wall Street.

How to explain this upsurge, albeit modest, in the number of Americans willing and able to join unions in 2025? The “willing” part isn’t hard to explain at all; the most recent Gallup survey found a near-record 68 percent of Americans have a favorable view of unions. That number rests on several sturdy pillars: the crisis of affordability, the growing loathing of corporations, and the sense that Trump is in bed with mega-rich CEOs, all of whom, very much including Trump himself, portend nothing good for American workers.

It’s no accident that the age group that gives unions their highest approval rating is those under 35, which is also the age group that gives Trump his lowest approval rating.

But the obstacle to unionization is decidedly not Americans’ assessment of unions, which hasn’t been this positive since the 1960s. It’s the state of labor law, which now has so many holes in it that it effectively gives employers a free ride to illegally bust unions, most particularly by illegally firing workers involved in an organizing campaign. Our labor law now permits Amazon and Starbucks to refuse to negotiate with their thousands of warehouse workers and drivers, and with thousands of baristas, who’ve voted decisively to unionize their workplaces.

Only the threadbare condition of the law originally written to enable workers to unionize if they wished to explains how the gap between 68 percent support and a bare 10 percent actual unionization grew so astonishingly wide.

Any American concerned about the declining share of the national income going to workers, and the rising share that’s been going to wealthy investors since roughly 1980 – which has yielded those two groups’ respective decline and increase in political influence – must make the reform of labor law a paramount priority.

Harold Meyerson
Condensed to fit from *The American Prospect*

Oakland CC builds science, nursing hub

(Continued from Page 1)

health sciences and nursing programs are planning to be moved from other campuses to the Orchard Ridge campus with the project’s expected completion in 2027.

Barton Malow Project Supt. Adam Czerny said 70-80 tradespeople have been on site in recent weeks, battling a difficult winter and now mucky ground with the thaw that followed. “A great crew out here, they’ve been great to work with during this deep freeze, and they have worked safely,” Czerny said.

The new two-level Health Science Building is being erected onto and into a former 1960s-era athletic building. That means elements of the new building are being incorporated into the old, retaining some walls and structural steel. A large part of the new space involves filling in the former pool, setting new foundations, and then adding a second floor above.

OCC Chancellor Peter Provenzano said the school’s strategic plan involves “establishing a special identity” for each campus. “We’re thrilled to bring our exceptional Health Sciences and Nursing program” to the Orchard Ridge location he said, “where students will benefit from cutting-edge technology and labs in a newly renovated, state-of-the-art facility.”

Provenzano said in an OCC publication that the pandemic moved more than half of their classes online, which opened up space in some of their campuses’ buildings. The Health Sciences and Nursing program has been split between OCC’s Highland Lakes and Southfield campuses.

“To maximize efficiency and foster campus vibrancy, we decided to consolidate these programs at Orchard Ridge,” Provenzano said. “By transforming an underused structure into a high-tech facility, we’re not only reducing our footprint but also creating a health and wellness hub to serve students and the community.”

Czerny said Barton Malow and its subcontractors have “definitely been challenged with the retrofitting and selective demolition that the project has required. A lot of this is putting a new building into an old building. But we’re doing well, and it’s going to be a nice building for OCC.”



SETTING A SEA OF “BANG-IT” anchors to provide hangar attachments for piping installation are Plumbers Local 98 members Jim Burrell, Joe Darmafall and Jeff Jozel. They’re employed by Western Mechanical, working on the second level of the Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building project in Farmington Hills.

Let’s can the food monopolies

By Jim Hightower

How are monopolistic corporations able to gain their economic dominance? They get politicians to give it to them.

Consider the old robber barons. They weren’t brilliant investors or managers, they were ruthless exploiters of government giveaways, and they routinely bribed lawmakers and other officials to permit their monopolistic thievery.

Likewise, today’s monopoly players have captured local, state, and national markets – not through honest competition, but by getting public officials to subsidize their expansion and to rig the rules against small competitors. Monopolizers buy this favoritism with the legalized bribes of dark-money campaign donations they lavish on compliant lawmakers.

Investigative digger Stacy Mitchell recently documented how this corrupt political favoritism has allowed massive retail chains like Walmart, Kroger, and Dollar Store to crush thousands of local grocers. This has left millions of Americans living in “food deserts” – worker class, poor, and rural communities with no food store.

What happened? As grocery chains spread from local to regional to national, they demanded that food manufacturers give them big discounts – a dramatic monopoly pricing advantage over independent rivals, so hometown grocers began hemorrhaging customers. This raw, anti-competitive, price discrimination was a flagrant violation of America’s anti-monopoly law – but here came Big Money to protect the monopolists.

In 1980, as Ronald Reagan was railing against “silly” consumer protection laws, supermarket lobbyists poured campaign cash into top officials of both parties. What they bought was bipartisan agreement to simply stop enforcing that “rusty” old antitrust law that had protected a competitive grocery economy for nearly 50 years.

But good news! That useful, highly-effective law is still on the books, so let’s build a long-term grassroots campaign to rejuvenate it and re-outlaw monopolization, redlining, and price gouging by food giants.



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BUILDING MICHIGAN: A capital Capitol HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



THE CENTRAL, CIRCULAR area below the Michigan Capitol Building’s dome features the “Gallery of Governors” paintings on the third floor, and a glass floor on the bottom level. This is one of many striking views inside the building, which was the first among the states to be modeled after the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. The warm, rich colors that decorate Michigan’s Capitol Building in Lansing are a happy feature that masks how the building was constructed – on the cheap. “In later capitols,” says the building’s National Register of Historic Places application, “a heretofore unseen degree of opulence was created through the use of lavish – and expensive – materials. But Michigan wanted opulence at a bargain, and this was achieved by the extensive and skillful use of every type of decorative painting in high fashion at the time. Eventually, walls and ceilings throughout the capitol were elaborately decorated with stencilled and handpainted designs, executed in a vibrant palette of brilliant colors and enhanced by gilding, metallic paints and glazes. Pine woodwork was carefully hand grained to imitate more expensive walnut.”

Today, Michigan’s State Capitol Building is awesome – and we don’t throw that term around loosely.

But it hasn’t always been thus – since it opened in 1879, over the course of generations the building’s interior has suffered through some incredible indignities. Until the 1980s and even afterward, the Capitol Building was the victim of not only indifference to its historical features, but chronic roof leaks and a general lack of maintenance, woeful heating, cooling and electrical systems, neglected painted surfaces, and even the addition of new floors between floors to add office space.

But today, it’s OK, Michigan. Restorations, mechanical upgrades and a whole lot of TLC – especially from the work performed over the past decade – have made our State Capitol Building a gleaming, modern architectural showcase on the inside. And outside, it’s wrapped with repaired, watertight sandstone that will protect the building for decades to come.

“Today Michigan’s State Capitol is nationally recognized for its extraordinary architecture and art,” writes Michigan State Capitol Commission Chairman William Candler. “It stands as Michigan’s most important public building and a proud symbol of our state. Sadly, this was not always the case. For decades, the building’s history and beauty were threatened by weathering, neglect, crowding, hard use, and technological change.”

Candler added: “Although widely honored for its authentic restoration and historical significance, the State Capitol is more than a museum. It remains a dynamic, living building, fully prepared to honor Michigan’s past, while serving its people as a modern seat of state government.”

The State Capitol Building is Michigan’s third, with the first located in Detroit’s Capitol Park (1837-1847) and the second (1848-1878) described as a crowded firetrap in Lansing.

Michigan’s leaders in the 1870s picked a winning rookie when it came to designing a new state capitol. “Elijah E. Myers was virtually unknown until he won a national competition in 1872 to design Michigan’s third capitol,” says a history written by the State of Michigan. “Upon its completion, the building met with great acclaim, and soon Myers won commissions across the country.”

The U.S. Capitol Building had its newly completed dome and expansion completed in 1868, and Myers used it as a guide when designing Michigan’s capitol.

According to the building sponsors’ successful application for placement on the National Register of Historic Places: “The Michigan State Capitol, under construction from 1872 to 1878, was dedicated on Jan. 1, 1879, and has served as Michigan’s seat of state government ever since. The Michigan capitol was the



THE MICHIGAN CAPITOL Building under construction in the late 1870s.

(Photo credits: Michigan State Capitol Commission)

first of three state capitols designed by architect Elijah E. Myers in the 1870s and 80s. Its successful completion established Myers’ reputation as the premiere capitol-builder of the post-Civil War period, and secured his career as one of the country’s most successful architects of public buildings.”

The building’s envelope is comprised of roughly 19 million bricks and faced in Berea sandstone quarried in northeast Ohio. The Michigan Capitol’s 160-foot-tall dome was made of wrought iron, ornamented with tin sheet metal.

The state Legislature allocated \$1.2 million (\$32 million in 2025), to be funded by a six-year state income tax to fund construction. After it opened, it took several years before the bare plaster walls of the interior of the building were decorated—the state had only allocated money for the building’s construction and didn’t want taxpayers to think lawmakers were spending money for “mere display.”

Finally, in 1885, \$25,000 was allocated to decorate the interior – but it wasn’t exactly a big budget that allowed for high-end materials.

Following a national search for decorative artists, a contract for \$20,000 was awarded to William Wright of Detroit, who was tasked with decorating the public spaces, then offices, halls and alcoves. His work took years to complete.

“Inside,” says a write-up by the Michigan State Capitol Commission, “you’ll see breathtaking spaces, rich walnut woodwork, and elegant marble columns – but look carefully or you may be fooled! In the 1880s, artists concealed inexpensive materials with brilliant colors, elaborate patterns, and faux finishes. With over nine acres of carefully restored painted surfaces, our

A 1989-1992 RENOVATION of the state Capitol Building eliminated extra floors that were added in 1969 to create more office space.



Capitol is one of the best examples of Victorian decorative art in the country! Over the succeeding years, this work fell out of fashion and the skills necessary to maintain it were lost.”

Succeeding caretakers of Michigan’s Capitol Building also lost appreciation for maintaining the architectural gem. It was, and is, a lot to take care of: 87,500 square feet over four main levels, with offices for all manner of state government. The building survived budgetary constraints during several recessions, two world wars, and the ravages of a mid-century modern architectural movement that had no problem with painting over old surfaces, tearing out walls, or – ye gods – adding a floor between floors.

A major renovation took place between 1989 and 1992, which saw the restoration of some of the original paint scheme, the upgrade of mechanical systems and return of many original design elements.

Over the past decade, the Michigan Legislature produced more money to further upgrade the building, with modern HVAC and electrical systems, more exterior renovations, and full cleaning and restoration of interior painted surfaces. Work has also introduced a new low-level Heritage Hall Visitors Center and underground geo-thermal system for heating and cooling.

“Despite the changes wrought in Myer’s Michigan capitol by age, weathering, crowding, constant use, changing tastes, and changing technologies, the building has largely retained its architectural and historical integrity over the years,” says the building’s National Historic Places designation.

Coalition: clean energy + union jobs = A winning combo

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it’s union jobs that will deliver family-sustaining wages, good benefits, and safety for workers.”

The coalition brings together a formidable cross-section of the state’s labor movement, including the Michigan AFL-CIO, Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, IBEW Michigan, Michigan Pipe Trades Association, Northern Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters, Michigan Laborers District Council, Michigan Operating Engineers 324, Michigan Education Association, and AFT Michigan.

Their blueprint calls for upgrading Michigan’s energy grid, decarbonizing public schools and buildings, expanding thermal energy networks, and creating pathways to union careers through apprenticeship programs. It is a conscious strategy to marry “bold climate action” with “economic justice,” the coalition said.

“We’re proud to partner with Michigan Climate Jobs on this new report that details how Michigan unions can drive the development of a clean energy economy that delivers for working families,” said Dr. Lara Skinner, executive director of the Climate Jobs Institute. “This plan provides a blueprint on how current and future union workers can build our growing clean energy economy in a way that benefits all working people.”

The launch emphasized that workers are not just stakeholders but rather the active leaders of such a transition. Union members who spoke, from across the skilled trades and public sector, connected the policy vision to the concrete reality of their lives and work. “Clean energy jobs are our future, and just as important, the careers they create are our future, too,” said Natalya Craig, an Operating Engineers 324 journey person and graduate apprentice.

“These projects don’t just produce energy – they produce long-term, skilled careers that allow people like me to support our families, stay in our communities, and build a life with dignity and security. When these projects are built by union skilled trades, they’re done safely, professionally, and in a way that creates real opportunities for the next generation.”

The plan also directly addresses the crisis in public infrastructure, centering the needs of students and school workers. “Our students deserve safe and healthy learning environments, and that means modernizing Michigan’s public schools with energy efficiency and renewable energy built by union labor,” said Terrence Martin, president of AFT Michigan. “These investments will also improve working conditions for teachers and school staff and help our public schools save money on energy costs over the long term.”

The coalition builds on Michigan’s legacy of labor leadership, which was instrumental in passing the state’s landmark climate legislation. MICJ’s mission is to hold the line during implementation, ensuring that the promise of high-quality jobs and community benefits is not sacrificed for corporate profits. “I have seen first-hand how solar projects have changed the lives of our members,” said Armando Ramos, a business agent of Laborers Local 1098. “They want to do this work, and as we continue to build an affordable clean energy future here in Michigan, it must be done with good union jobs that support working families.”

For workers on the ground,

the coalition represents a unified front to secure a just transition. Justin Steenbergh, a business agent at IBEW Local 58 who attended the press conference, told *People’s World* that his union cares deeply about “having a just transition to a green, peaceful economy that provides good union jobs where no worker is left behind and where our people and planet can really prosper.”

The launch of Michigan Climate Jobs shows that Michigan’s labor movement is taking the initiative and leadership by refusing to let the shape of the new energy economy be dictated by big business. Instead, they are advancing a worker-led vision for society where fighting climate change and fighting for a better life are one and the same struggle. (From *People’s World*)

\$16B tunnel project resumes; Trump still seeks its shutdown

(Continued from Page 1)

for what he called the “Democrat” tunnel between the two blue states in October, but the project continued until the money ran out last month.

Tradespeople at five sites in New York and New Jersey were off the job while the funding matter played out in the courts. Despite the federal court order to release the allocated federal funds, the Trump Administration has appealed the ruling, seeking to get the project stopped again. On Feb. 16, a Truth Social post by Trump called the project the “future boondoggle known as the ‘Gateway’ in New York/ New Jersey,” and he said there would be no federal money to cover cost overruns he predicted for the project.

“You’re seeing a president who has moved the goalposts again and again and again for 1,000 people that are employed on this project – who are going to have to go home today and tell their families that they don’t have a job on this site,” said New Jersey Gov. Mikie Sherrill when the work stoppage began on Feb. 6. “Because the president of the United States has decided to play politics with their job, has decided to play politics with our economy, has decided that politics are more important to him than the working men and women of this country.”

Building trades numbers also rise, but deficit vs. nonunion barely budges

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of the nation’s construction industry. That percentage continued to drop during the rest of that decade, and then fell dramatically when President Ronald Reagan opened the door to attacks on all unions by firing the striking air-traffic controllers in 1981.

The BLS reported that about 995,000 construction workers in the U.S. were union in 2025. And McGarvey said more workers with union cards are in the pipeline. “We had a record number of over 88,000 new apprentices in 2025 and over 300,000 men and women enrolled in our registered apprenticeship programs over the last two years,” he said, adding that the Biden Administration’s passage of the CHIPs Act and Infrastructure Act continue to pay dividends for the nation’s construction industry.

“Our sustained growth is also a product of sound public policy. The prior administration and Congress prioritized real investments in infrastructure and energy while partnering with the building trades to utilize our best-in-class registered apprenticeship system to drive growth not only in our membership but in communities across the country,” he said. “While the current administration has announced future foreign investments in the United States, none have yet produced a single work hour for our members. Instead, cancellations, delays, withdrawn permits, withheld funds, and policy uncertainty have jeopardized these anticipated domestic investments.

“Uncertainty and instability for the construction industry are incompatible with building the high-road construction workforce America urgently needs at this time. We urge all policymakers to remain focused on what works: real investments for real projects that are tied to our training infrastructure to strengthen America now and into the future.”

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Local 292

Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be Wednesday, **March 11, 2026, at 6 pm.** at **Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083.** Use the Banquet Entrance. Member meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** will be held **Wednesday, March 25, 2026,** at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall.

RETIREES NOTICE: The next Retiree Luncheon will be held on 4/2/26 at 12:30 pm at Madhouse Bar and Grill, 32787 Stephenson Hwy, Madison Heights, 48071. It's always nice catching up and staying connected. Please get in touch with the union hall via our website www.sheetmetal292.com, click on the “Contact Us” page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.



PAUL GUALDONI You can now access your Annuity account online, by phone, or by mobile app. The phone number to reach John Hancock is 833-388-6466. To create an online profile and a PIN, visit johnhancock.com/myplan and click “register now.” Be sure to choose a strong password. Keep your password safe and change it regularly. To establish your PIN by phone, call 833-38-6466 or 888-440-0022 for Spanish.

Important Notice: Pension Benefit Payments Transitioning to Prudential Effective 8/1/25. Pension benefit payments will now come from Prudential, starting with the transfer. Retirees will begin receiving monthly pension payments directly from Prudential Insurance. If your medical insurance premium was being automatically deducted from your pension, this will continue under Prudential. No action is needed. **Advantages of the Pension Risk Transfer:** Greater Long-Term Security. The pension plan is being transferred to Prudential, a highly reputable and financially stable insurance company. Prudential specializes in managing long-term annuity payments, ensuring that retirees receive dependable monthly payments for life. Prudential's sole focus is managing and delivering retirement income. This transfer places retirees' pension under expert stewardship and reduces financial risk to the Union. The amount of your monthly benefit with not change. The payment schedule will continue on time and in full.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Local 292 has a new partner for Member Assistance. UNION EAP. Union EAP provides professional guidance for mental health, substance abuse recovery, and complex healthcare navigation for all active participants of the Health Plan. Beyond wellness, they offer expert assistance with legal consultations and financial planning to ensure you have the support you need for every part of your life, all completely confidential.

Available 24/7, 365 days a year. 1-855-500-1915. A Union EAP rep will attend the 4/8/26 Membership Meeting to explain the services available through the program and answer any questions members may have.

SMOHIT HELPLINE: Call 877-884-6227/ Available 24/7. For SMART 292 Members and their families experiencing an immediate crisis or who need a helpful ear.

OUT OF WORK: If you become laid off, you Must complete an Out of Work List Registration /SUB form. SUB forms are available at the Union Hall and through all shop stewards. This is the only way your name will be added to the Out of Work List. **Please contact Paul or Tony for updated work opportunities.**

SMART 292 APP: Our new Local 292 App is now live. It is available to all dues-paying members. Download is available through your App Store. Search SMART Local 292. There will be a short waiting period for the verification process.

WEBSITE / FACEBOOK: Be sure to check our website – www.sheetmetal292.com; Facebook page - Sheet Metal Workers Local 292.

TEXT BLAST NOTIFICATION: If you haven't been receiving texts and would like to be added or wish to opt out of text blast, please get in touch with the Union Hall and we will make the change.

TRUEHEARING: This benefit of premium hearing aids is available to active eligible participants, dependents and Pre-Medicare retirees. To get started, call TruHearing, 1-833-898-1255, for an appointment.

SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS: To access your MUST account, please go to www.mustonline.org or access it through the “links” tab at www.sheetmetal292.com. If you haven't already done so, you must create an account to access your information. If you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact the Union Hall.

DUES: Membership dues must be paid in advance of the month for which they are due. The union hall is not open Saturday or Sunday; therefore, if you pay dues on either of those days, it will not be processed until Monday. If you are on suspension warning, your dues are 60 days late. To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by 4 p.m. on the last business day of the month. Payments received after 4 p.m. on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you WILL go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paid online (sheetmetal292.com).

ADDRESS UPDATES: If you move, please contact the union hall to update your address.

CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL: The new Constitution and Ritual of the 3rd SMART General Convention is now available online. Go to www.sheetmetal292.com, click on the Constitution/Ritual tab located at the top of the home page. The Union Hall now has hard copies if anyone is interested in having one.

SUBSTANTIATION REQUEST: Many members have received Substantiation Request letters from the Local 292 Benefit Fund office. IRS regulations require that every use of the Benny Card be substantiated or validated as an eligible covered expense under the Plan. The IRS requires this validation; the Fund cannot make exceptions. It is the members' responsibility to ensure all requested documentation is returned to the Fund office promptly. By not responding to the Substantiation Request letter, your Benny Card may be suspended until all requested documentation has been received. If you have any questions, contact BeneSys at 248.641.4992 or the Union Hall.

UNION HALL HOURS are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. **THE 4 PLUS MEMBER PROGRAM:** The “4-plus” member program is for any Local 292 member who has achieved four (or more) welding certifications. These certifications can be in any welding process. Members who qualify will receive a shirt (one shirt for every four certifications) with the 4 Plus logo, hard hat stickers, and bragging rights. If you would like to be a “4-plus” member, contact your Local 292 Training Center at: **313-623-9390 (Dave)** or Quintin at 248.495.6764.

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any members interested in a Saturday welding class on March 7, March 14, and March 21, April 4, April 11, and April 25.

These classes would be for members ready to obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or need to practice welding. Note: Anyone who signs up for a class must pay a \$40.00 registration fee that will be refunded on the completion of the class. These deposits are NON-Refundable if you do not show up for the classes. You can drop off the deposit between the hours of 7:00 and 3:00 at the Apprentice School.

Call the Apprentice School at 248-589-3237, Dave's cell 313-623-9390 or Quintin's cell 248-495-6764 to reserve a spot. Remember we must have the deposit before you will be scheduled for the class.

INSTALLING DUCT TABS at the Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building project in Farmington Hills is Devin Casey of Sheet Metal Workers Local 80. He's employed by Ventcon.



Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

SOUTHFIELD – This paper serves as official notice for all meetings and elections.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Next General Membership Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Next executive board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14th at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield.



JASON GRUNENWALD

UNION HALL REGULAR HOURS Monday through Friday 7:30 - 4:00, unless otherwise indicated.

RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE: 2026 Retiree Meetings: Monday April 20th, June 15th, August 17th, October 19th (annual party) & December 21st. All membership meetings start at 12:30 pm, held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593. Retiree lapel pins with the SMWIA logo are available to all members of the local 80 retirees' association. They will be available to all retiree association members at our general membership meetings. Please see the general membership-meeting schedule above.

MARCH RE-REGISTRATION! If you were laid off prior to March 1st you will need to re-register by March 20th to keep your spot on the out of work list. You may re-register at the hall, by email registerlocal80@gmail.com or fax 248-557-0297. You CANNOT re-register over the phone. Please call the hall with any questions.

BENESYS AT THE UNION HALL: Lashone will be in Monday - Thursday from 9-4pm. To schedule an appointment, please 248-813-9800 ext. 3250

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: *Conner Foley, Robert Clark, Robert Bauer, Anthony A. Johnson, Travis Mann, Gary McNutt, Ronald Edwards III, Noah Vredenburg, Devin, Slaughter, Anthony M. Stocker, Ryan Abke, Cecil Woodruff, Douglas Trelfa, Eric Waldrop, Gregory Nastvold, Michael J. Wilson, William Derr, Anthony Williams, Christopher Cosgrove, Mark Majewski, Kevin Peltier, Gary Kushniruk, Justin Kazyaka, Daniel Hines, Dillion Shepherd, Shaun Keeney, James Bleyaert, Steven Boyd, Kolin Barnes, Jozsef Salamon, Kevin Marinkovich, Scott Brown, Andre Plave, Dylan Wardrop, Steve Darhower, Robert Beeckman, Jonathan Borgiel, Thomas Haas, James Callahan, Harold Knapp, Christopher Malysz, Jerry Roland, Alvarado, Joseph Potter, Kevin Armstrong, Travis Mann, and Scott Zitterkopf.*

DUES PAYMENTS: are due prior to the 1st of the month. Books close at the end of business day on the last day of the month. Payments made on the 1st will be considered late. No exceptions - once the books are closed, they cannot be reopened. To help you stay on track, you will receive a text reminder before the end of the month. If you're not receiving these reminders, please contact the hall.

WORKING IN OTHER LOCALS: Please remember that if you are working in a jurisdiction outside of Local 80 you must call their union hall and check in as a traveler. It is the member's responsibility to do this, not the contractor's! If you have any questions please reach out to an agent.

ADDRESS CHANGES: If you have a new address please make sure to let the hall know. We will take care of your account with the union hall, which includes the Tradesman paper. You will also need to call Benesys at 800-400-7710 to update for insurance and pension documents.

WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS: must be reported by the steward by 3pm on Friday and signed forms returned on Monday to staff@smw80.org

LAY-OFFS: All members must report to the Union Hall immediately upon lay-off. You must be on the out-of-work list to collect S.U.B. or SASMI benefits. It is the contractor's responsibility to issue a termination slip in accordance with our contract.

OUT-OF-WORK LIST: Members must re-register bi-annually: March 1 through March 20 and Sept. 1 through Sept. 20. If you fail to re-register, you will be removed from the list. Your name will be removed from the list fourteen (14) days after receiving an assignment.

SUB Application Deadlines and Requirements: **Submit your SUB application within 7 days of your layoff** to avoid forfeiting benefits.

Layoff slips must accompany your application to qualify for SUB benefits.

Send proof of UIA benefit payments within 21 days of the payment date to receive SUB benefits.

Send your unemployment proof to smw80subfund@gmail.com or fax it to **248-557-0297**. To ensure payment by Friday, proof due by **2:00 PM on Tuesdays.**

Important: Do not submit your UIA proof directly to the fund office. For questions, call the hall at **248-557-7575**.

SHORT WORK WEEK SUB PAY: If you miss work due to weather, and you are not laid off, the company must provide written documentation confirming the loss of hours was weather-related. If you work 16 hours or less in a week, you may be eligible to collect SUB, but only if the hours worked are at the beginning or end of a layoff. To apply: Complete the SUB application at the hall.

Provide a pay stub for the week. The hall will submit your information to the fund office. Make sure to follow these steps to ensure your eligibility.

SAVE THE DATE: Detroit St. Patrick's Parade – March 15; Golf Outing – July 11; Picnic – Aug. 1.

Training Center News. **Apprenticeship Entrance Exam.** The Entrance Exam for the next **Sheet Metal Workers' Local 80 Building Trades Apprenticeship** class is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2026. The deadline to apply is July 17, 2026. Requirements include a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license and applicants must be 18 years old by October 5, 2026. Applications must be submitted in person and are accepted by appointment only. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Local 80 Training Center @ (586) 979-5190.

Upcoming Class: **The Keith Klos Memorial Copper Class** – Students enrolled in the Copper class will receive materials and instructions to build one copper project (copper lighthouse, hurricane lantern, birdhouse or rose). The class will meet on Wednesday evenings for eight weeks starting on Wednesday, April 1, from 5 until 8 P.M. Registration for Local 80 Members is open now. The deadline to register is Monday, March 30. The class is limited to 10 people.



Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

LANSING – NOTICE. This Newspaper Article shall serve as the Official Notice of ALL meetings for Local 7!

The next Statewide Meeting will be April 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

- *Zone 1 March 12th at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 2 March 17th at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 3 March 11th at 6:00 p.m. (Freeland)
- *Zone 3 June 4th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)
- *Zone 4 March 10th at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 5 April 4th at 6:00 p.m.

Please be aware that we are all required to report into the Local/Zone/Area/Jurisdiction in which we are traveling outside of our home Local/Zone/Area/Jurisdiction per the SMART Constitution Article 16

Section 10. Failure to report could result in charges and fines that you alone will be responsible for. Do not rely on your contractor or others to report on your behalf, it is your responsibility. Call your Business Representative if you are unsure of who to contact, they will get you the correct reporting information.

Please register on our website at www.sheet-metal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2026. Once you are registered it must be approved to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you have issues registering.

SMART Union Labels: Make the union label work for you! The new and modernized SMART Labels are an essential part to wage equalization, which means more money and work for you. Make sure that you are scanning labels to equalize pay and eliminate the incentive to sub-contract outside of your area. For more information visit the official website at www.labelscanitreport.com and download the official app by texting “SMART” to 90975.

ZONE 1 Info. Work in the Zone 1 area has slowed recently but looking to pick up in the spring. If you become unemployed, please update your status with Eric or Vance (Apprentices please notify Ryan as well). If you are experiencing any difficulties with unemployment or insurance, please contact Eric or Vance for any additional assistance. Any Journeypersons interested in upgrade classes, please contact Ryan at the Training Center for additional information (269) 781-7183 (class availability depends on the number of individuals interested).

Monthly Retiree meeting: 2nd Tuesday of each month 1:00 pm located at Sarah's Place 1100 Page Ave, Jackson MI 49203. **In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders**

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 looks good, we have the soccer stadium in downtown Grand Rapids starting soon. If your employment status changes, please let me know and keep me informed of any address or phone number changes. Dues are always due prior to the first of the month. The Local 7 picnic for this year has been cancelled due to lack of campsites. **In Solidarity, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in our area is slow, when work becomes available in other areas, I will let members on the out of work list know. Our next Zone 3 meeting in Freeland is March 11. If your contact information has changed, please contact the Lansing office (517)882-4064

Please make sure your dues are current. The next Retiree meeting is April 7 at the Ponderosa in Bay City on Wilder Rd. **In Solidarity, Joe Dotson**

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City) Work in the area is steady with new projects starting soon. SASMI applications for Zone 3 and 5 have been sent out and if you are eligible, they will need to be mailed in by April 1. We are always looking for new apprentices so if anyone has someone interested in the trade, contact me. Please make sure your dues are paid and your address and phone numbers are kept updated with Benesys and Lansing. **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

ZONE 4 Info: Work across Local 7, Zone 4 has been slower than usual, but there are positive signs ahead as we move closer to spring. Activity is expected to pick up in the coming months, and things are shaping up well for a stronger season. Members are reminded to turn in their surveys for the upcoming contract as soon as possible. These surveys play a key role in representing everyone's interests, and full participation helps strengthen our position moving forward. For anyone interested in upgrade classes or additional training, please contact Kurt at the training center for more information and scheduling details. Stay warm out there, brothers. It's been a long winter, and your hard work and dedication are appreciated. **Thanks, your brother, Scott Brotherton**

ZONE 5 Info: Work in the UP has hit a little bit of a lull. Now is a good time to get your Mine Safety Training up to date. If you need a refresher please sign up for that at www.upconstruction.org. If you have a change of address please call me or the Lansing hall to get that updated. **Reminder:** Our 2026 union meetings at the hall in Gwinn have been changed to Saturdays at 10 am. - In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld. **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld.**

Dues Department: *Online dues payment is now available* Dues from all members of local unions shall be paid monthly or quarterly, but always in advance. To better serve our membership, we accept Credit Card Payments in lieu of your monthly dues. If you would like to take advantage of the Credit Card Service, a finance charge will be applied – Please call the Lansing office during regular business hours at 517-882-4064 to make your payment.

Address/Phone Changes: Article 8, Section 1 of Local 7 Work Rules: *Address Changes:* All members are required to keep the Financial Secretary informed of their correct address. A notice mailed to the last address shall be sufficient and legal. If you have moved or changed your telephone no., please contact the union hall to update your records.

BENEFITS: For Benefit questions please contact the area office. Zone 1 – BeneSys 866-822-7037, Zone 2 – TIC 866-887-4338, Zone 3 – BeneSys 800-451-5733, Zone 4 – BeneSys 800-842-2690 and Zone 5 – Wisconsin H & B Fund 800-654-2329.

DEATH CERTIFICATES: Please submit to the Union Hall a copy of a Death Certificate for deceased members. Additional benefits from the International may be available.

CONTACT US: 4931 Contec Drive, Lansing, MI 48910– **517-882-4064**

Local 7 Officers: **Samual Fuller** (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) **517-882-4064**

Eric Farrington (Agent-Lansing/Jackson) **517-242-3223**
Vance Saunders (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) **269-569-9200**
Mike Adams (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) **616-299-3752**
Joe Dotson (Agent-Saginaw) **989-225-0095**
John Amalfitano (Agent-Traverse City) **231-590-1112**
Scott Brotherton (Agent-Flint) **810-836-3552**
Brandon Langenfeld (Agent-Upper Peninsula) **906-372-9288**



Local 190

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters, Service Technicians, Gas Distribution

UA Local 190

ANN ARBOR - UNION MEETING - PLEASE NOTE - SPECIAL CALLED MARCH MEETING WILL BE THE FIRST MONDAY 3/2: The Special Call Union Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION MEMBERS (RATIFICATION/WAGE ALLOCATION SPECIAL CALLED UNION MEETING 4/4: a Special Called Meeting for the Michigan Gas Distribution members has been scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 9 am to 12 pm at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in the Ojibway Room 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. The purpose of this Special Called Union Meeting is for ratification/wage allocation effective May 1, 2026.

GAS DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICES DOWN HILL WELDING TRAINING, HELPER AND FUSER TRAINING: Will begin Monday, Jan. 5 and run for 2½ months. This class will be held at the training center Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *In order to take the journeyman gas distribution weld test, you must attend this training as a prerequisite. Please note that 4th and 5th year gas apprentices have preference to sign up for this welding training.* Limited space is available so please contact Pat Duffy 734-368-4423, Roy Musgrove 734-646-8838 or Ralph Booth at 734-369-1432.

PAY UNION DUES ONLINE: Members can now pay your union dues online. <https://mtp.ua190.org/mtpweb> Username will be your full social security number, temporary password is the last four digits of your social security number. There is a 3% fee charged. Feel free to call the hall for a QR CODE.

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS - LAID OFF OR BACK TO WORK: All members who get laid off or report back to work *please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. #210. Please report the last day in which you worked. When calling to report back to work please let Karen know the contactor and the date you reported back to work.* PLEASE NOTE: All Members can now go to the website under “members only” and fill out a “back to work” form or “laid off” form.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION JOURNEYMAN: If you are currently laid off and you would like to work building trades. Please contact Kristyn at our Training Center to get information on a UA 21 Weld Certification. 734-426-3700 Ext. #1 for Kristyn

FUSING CLASS: Anyone interested in registering for the fusing class, please contact Business Agent Pat Duffy at (734) 368-4423, Business Agent Roy Musgrove 734-646-8838 or Ralph Booth at (734) 369-1432. **MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION - E-Mail address:** Please contact the union hall 734-424-0962 or Pat Duffy 734-368-4423 to make sure we have a current e-mail address.

MICHIGAN LICENSE RENEWAL: Plumbing license renewals are done online **ONLY!** For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit: www.michigan.gov/bcc.

ANNUAL PHYSICALS need to be completed by Oct. 31, 2026. Please remember to bring in the 2026 Annual Physical Verification Form and email the completed form to Bernadette Maus bmaus@ua190.org. This form is on our Local 190 website UA190.org and also the Benefits website UA190benefits.org, go to documents, health care, 2026 annual physical verification form (towards the bottom of the page) Bernadette Maus will be available by phone Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or in person Mondays and Wednesdays at Local 190's office from 7:30 a.m. until Noon and 1-4:30 p.m., please contact her directly at (888) 390-7473 to schedule an appointment.

The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. Office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am. to 5 pm. Friday 8am. to 4 pm. We will be closed for lunch from Noon to 1pm.

Please give Kristyn a call

with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org members only section under training to register for classes online.

Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!

Please submit all continuities, certifications and licenses to the Training Center, so we can keep your profiles up to date. Email: kristyn@190jtc.com or mail to 8040 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI. 48103

Available Journeyman classes:

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org **2026 Schedule - Mondays, April 20, July 20, and Sept. 28.** Each class will start at 5 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org **2026 Schedule - Mondays - April 27, July 27, and Oct. 5.** Each class will start at 5 pm.

Welding Fundamentals (40 hrs): This class is designed for apprentices & journeymen who have little to no welding experience and want to learn the basic fundamentals of SMAW (Stick), and GTAW (TIG) welding. This course will cover welding procedures (WPS), UA certifications (UA-21, UA-22, UA-41), basic metallurgy, weld process selection, machine setup, welding symbols, welding positions, welding electrodes and consumables, weld preparation, shielding gasses, and welder safety. Participants will receive training on the Lincoln Virtual welding machine (VR), before heading into the welding lab. **Call the Training Center to secure your spot, dates to be announced later.**

Welding Lab: is Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursday nights from 4pm to 8:30pm. Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm. The open welding lab will run until **May 22**, closed for the holidays. There is limited space and first come first served. Saturdays will only remain open with member participation. Welding tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors and the training coordinator.

ASSE Backflow Certification: This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). **2026 Schedule:** The second course starts **Sept 8**. Courses run on **Tuesdays and Thursday** for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to secure your spot or register through the website: ua190.org **Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.**

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): **ASSE PRICE INCREASE** ASSE has increased the retesting fee to \$85 for this recertification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2026 Schedule:** The second course starts **May 5**. The third course starts **Oct 13**. Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org **Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.**

Med Gas Installer and Brazing Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. **2026 Schedule:** First course starts **March 10**. Second course starts **Sept. 1**. Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

Med Gas Installer Update (8hrs): This is a two-day course.

2026 Schedule: First course starts **April 28**. Second course starts **Oct 6**. Courses will be on Tue and Thu and are limited to 24 participants, per course. Call the Training Center to be put on the list for the next class or register through the website: ua190.org

ASSE 12010 ICRA Certification for Infection Control and Risk Assessment for Construction Workers (16hrs): This is a four-day course. **2026 schedule:** course to be announced later.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become Certified in Rigging and Crane Signaling. Must have

(Continued next column)



Local 357

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO - THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING will be on **Tuesday, March 10** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

UNION DUES REMINDERS: Phone call reminders to pay your dues will not be made. Cash is accepted at the Union Hall for any payments. You also have the option to pay your union dues through the Local 357 website @ www.ualocal357.com. Note that you must add a 4% fee for using this site.... so, if you are paying a month of dues at \$34.00... you need to pay \$35.36. Other ways to pay include sending a check, stopping by the Union Hall, dropping off a payment in the drop box outside the front door or calling Lori at (269) 679-3708 and paying with a credit card.

RETIREE LUNCH MEETINGS will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at **The Crew**, 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. Phone no. for the location is (269) 337-9800.

CHANGE OF STATUS: If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, re-married, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call Lori at the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date and you only have thirty (30) days from the date of the event to make the change. **There also seems to be a continuing problem regarding notification of divorces. Note that you, the member, will be responsible for any bills incurred and paid on claims of an ex-spouse or dependents. (See Pages 6 and 27 in the Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification).**

Local 190, con't

5 years of experience or have gone through Rigging Technologies (Apprenticeship Rigging). Next class will be **Winter/Spring 2026**. Class size is limited to 8. Please register through the website: ua190.org

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs): This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Classes are scheduled for the following dates: **March 16, later course to be announced later.** Please register through the website: ua190.org

Michigan 2021 Plumbing Code Class (48 hrs.): **Journeyman members** who are registered with the State of Michigan as **Apprentice Plumbers** with a **minimum of 3 years and 6000 hours** of documented work experience **under a Master Plumber**, can register for the Michigan 2021 Plumbing Code Class. This class will prepare members for the written code and practical sections of the State of Michigan Plumbing Test. Please contact the Training Center to reserve your spot. Dates will be announced when the class roster is full. Members must meet all the requirements to sign up.

RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to the following members on their retirement. With retirement comes new horizons and we hope that all of you enjoy every second of your newfound freedom, wishing all of you the very best for a relaxing, happy and healthy retirement.

Robert Pagliarini, initiated May 10, 1982, retired Jan. 1.

Henry Haley, initiated Oct. 9, retired Jan. 1.

Shawn Dresch, initiated Feb. 19, 1993, retired Feb. 1.

Gary Smith, initiated May 11, 1987, retired Feb. 1.

John Karklin, initiated Dec. 13, 2004, retired March 1.

RETIREE MEETINGS - PLEASE JOIN US: The next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 2 at the Union Hall. Join us for card games, pastries, and a cup of coffee.

NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE BUILDING TRADESMAN PAPER: Please contact Karen Spearin at the union hall, (734) 424-0962 Ext #210, if you would like to put a special notification in the paper.



UA Local 370

FLINT - The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 10, 2026 and is designated as a refreshment meeting.**

Retiree Breakfast will be on Monday, March 9th at 9:00 am.

The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members and retirees as of March 1. This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations on legal and financial matters. There is a great discount program for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

Weld Test Saturday March 21st at 7:00am.

CPR March 18th. 4:30pm - 8:30pm.

March Welding March 2nd thru March 25th. Mondays and Wednesdays. 4:30pm - 7:30pm.

Backflow March 9th thru April 12th. Mondays and Wednesdays. 4:30pm - 8:30pm.

Evacuation/ Recovery March 11th @ 5:00pm

A2L (Safe Handling of Mildly Flammable Refrigerants) March 24th thru March 26th.

STAR HVACR Prep Class May 4-7, 13th & 14th. (Test on May 14th) Submit application to training dept. by April 17th.

All classes and test days can be signed up with the Training Center at 810-720-5243 Ext 15 or at training@ualocal370.org

2021 Plumbing Code Books now available. Cost is \$85. Check, money order or Credit Card.

Per our **By-Laws Article XV**, The Building Tradesman is hereby adopted and subscribed to as our Labor paper for all members of Local 370. Said paper to be used for all official notification of membership.

Committee and Board meetings are as follows:

Examining Board - Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee - Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 4:00pm

PAC committee - Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 5:00pm

Executive Board - Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 5:00pm

Building Committee - Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee - Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 6:15pm

JATC Committee - TBD

ALL GM Worksites and others require MUST Safety and Drug Testing: MUST safety modules are only valid for 4 years. Call the hall to sign up for the MUSTBSAFE.com website and complete all 18 safety modules. Members will not be eligible to work at any job site requiring them until all 18 modules are complete and are current on their drug test. If your drug test is expired, you must take one before you can be dispatched to any GM work. Drug tests are only valid for 1 year. Call The hall and we will print you a drug test authorization form

Local 370 office hours 7:30am - 4:30pm.

Sub/Sick checks will be processed 8:00am - 11:30 am and 1:30pm - 4:15pm daily.

Attendance award drawing for membership meeting information. Members present must have dues paid to date to claim award. The monthly award is 150 dollars.

Attention All Active Members in Good Standing: The Joint Apprentice and Training Committee voted to reimburse any active member of Local 370 who takes and passes any training, testing or certification that may be required to perform their work. This includes Rigging, Med-Gas, Back flow or any work-related training or certification expense. Members will be reimbursed after successful completion and verification of the cost. Lost wages will not be covered by the JATC. Plumbing license renewal is still the responsibility of the member. If you have any questions, please contact local 370 JATC.

Mobile App. Our mobile app. Is now available for download on you cell phone. Go to the app store and search **UA Local 370**. Download the app and sign in. You can read the latest Building Tradesman (Continued next column)

March 6, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 5



UA Local 671

MONROE - The next union meeting will be held on March 19, 2026, at 7pm. The Executive Board will also have a meeting on **March 19, 2026, at 5pm.** If anyone would like to come in front of the E-Board, please contact the Union Hall.

ATTENTION: This paper is to serve as official notice to the membership.

Also, please refer to our website <https://www.unitedassociationlocal671.com/> and its calendar for the latest updates.

There will be a Special Order of Business at our April 16th Union Meeting. This will be for the allocation of our raise beginning June 1st, 2026.

The next retiree luncheon will be Thursday March 26 at noon at the Union Hall. All luncheons are the last Thursday of the month. I hope to see you there.

Local 671 App: To keep up with the latest information, make sure you download Local 671 App. If you have questions or issues getting logged on contact Mike at the Union Hall.

Michigan Plumbing Exam Prep Class: We continue to hold classes to prepare Members who will be taking their Michigan Journeyman Plumbing Test. If you have any questions or are curious about your Plumbing hours with the State, contact Justin for details.

In Closing: Just a quick reminder as we go in a couple outages for Fermi II and Monroe Power plant. When working long hours, rest and attention to detail are not luxuries - they are necessities. Fatigue slows reaction time, clouds judgment, and increases the likelihood of mistakes that can impact safety, productivity, and quality. In our skilled trades especially, where precision and focus matter on every measurement, weld, and install, even a small oversight can lead to costly rework or serious hazards.

Proper rest helps maintain mental sharpness, steady hands, and sound decision-making. Taking time to recover ensures that each task is completed safely, efficiently, and to the highest standard. Working hard is important but working smart with adequate rest and a sharp eye for detail - protects both the individual and the integrity of the job. Please make sure you give yourself time to rest while working these long hours over the next several weeks, and please keep an eye for one another.

Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com

Kirk Lavoy: email: kirk@ualocal671.com

Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: carly@ualocal671.com

Local 370, con't

ing Trades article, see upcoming meeting dates, or pay your dues. This is a work in progress, and we will add more content to the site as we move forward.

Our web site is up and running. Check it out at ualocal370.org

Members wishing to take the U.A. welding certification test can contact the Training Center for application and testing dates.

Local 370 ball caps and winter fleece caps are available at the union offices. Ball caps \$10.00 and fleece caps \$5.00. Pocket Tee shirts are available for \$10 dollars each. Hooded sweat shirts and long sleeve pocket tee shirts are available. The sweat shirts are \$30 and the long sleeve tee shirts are \$15. Golf polo and golf wind shirts are available for \$25.

T.I.C. fringe administrators' toll free number is 1-888-797-5862.



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

UA Local 111

UPPER PENINSULA - UNION MEETING: The next Union Meeting will be held in Escanaba on Thursday, March 26 at 7:30 PM. All members are encouraged to attend.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES: Members interested in 1-day shutdowns should contact Business Agent/Dispatcher Scott Pendergraft in the Escanaba Office. Call the Escanaba or Marquette Office for updates: Layoff Line - Extension #7; Job Line - Extension #8.

MRA FUND: The IRS requires substantiation for all MRA debit card transactions. Many members have received request letters from Zenith American Solutions. It is YOUR responsibility to submit the requested documentation promptly. Failure to respond will result in suspension of your card until documentation is received. You can review transactions and upload documentation through the Zenith Portal or App. For assistance, call 1-866-823-4730, ext. 1.

NEW MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Beginning Dec. 1, 2025, our Health & Welfare Plan will partner with Ulliance to offer the Life Advisor Member Assistance Program (MAP). This confidential, no-cost benefit is available to members and covered dependents and provides 24/7 support for personal and work-related challenges, including stress, anxiety, depression, relationship concerns, substance abuse, eldercare or childcare referrals, and financial or legal guidance. Services include short-term counseling, coaching, crisis intervention, and community resources. To access services, call 800-448-8326 or www.lifeadvisor.com.

988 CRISIS HELPLINE: If you or someone you know is struggling, call or text 988 anytime to connect with trained counselors for mental health or suicide prevention support.

MEMBER RECORDS: Please keep your records current by contacting April or Rose with any changes to your address, phone number, email, or family status.

LAYOFF REMINDER: Report layoffs immediately; the day you call is the date you are placed on the Out-of-Work List.

APPRENTICES: You are required to attend four union meetings each year.

WELDERS AND CERTIFICATIONS: UA Welder Qualification Continuity Report forms are available on our website under Training or at the Hall. Certifications expire every six months, and it is YOUR responsibility to ensure forms are turned in on time. Please also update all Non-UA Certifications (Plumbing License, MUST, OSHA-30, MSHA, etc.) by sending a copy to the Union Hall.

DUES REMINDER: Check your dues records regularly; a \$50 reinstatement fee applies once you are three months behind. Members are automatically expelled after six months of non-payment.

SAFETY TRAINING - LOCAL 111 WEBSITE: Visit lu111.com and click Safety Links to complete your online safety training. Members must complete training for each site; trainings are valid for one year.

MSHA TRAINING: Registration and cancellations are handled online at upconstruction.org under the MSHA Calendar.

"Assumptions are the termites of relationships."
-Henry Winkler (1945 -)





UA LOCAL 85
SAGINAW, MI

Local 85

Plumbers & Steam Fitters

UA Local 85
SAGINAW – The next **Union Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, March 18, 2026**, at the Union Hall at 3535 Bay Road at 7:00 PM. This meeting is a Special Order of Business for the purpose of allocations.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**, at the Grayling Eagles Lodge, at 602 Huron St., Grayling, MI 49738.

Contact Information:
Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513 jpomerville@ualocal85.org
Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8514 tdanielak@ualocal85.org
Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 csteele@ualocal85.org
Andre Alexander, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515 aalexander@ualocal85.org
Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 8512 rjanderson@ualocal85.org
Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8511 ktuthill@ualocal85.org
Please check the ualocal85.org or our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

The **new website** is up and running. Please check out www.ualocal85.org. Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card Number. If you should have any difficulties logging in, please call Kristin at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511.

Social Media: Like us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, @UALocal85. Facebook has our Members Only page for updates at UA Local 85 Members Group.

JATC News: Work continues to be very busy, please keep a close eye on the website for upcoming classes. We need to continue to be trained and certified for many of these upcoming projects. If there is a specific class you need, please reach out to Training Coordinator Robert Mead, (989) 799-5261 ext. 8519.

GOD BLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

SUB Fund: Print Unemployment Payment History underneath the Certification Tab when logged into your MiWAM account. Deadline for submittals is Noon on Thursday in order to receive a check that Friday. Checks will be mailed out on Friday. No in person pickups allowed. If a holiday falls on a Friday, checks will be issued on Thursday and deadline will be moved up to Wednesday by noon.

Where to submit documents: Address: UA Local Union 85 SUB, 3535 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48603 Fax: (989) 791-3468 Email: SUB@ualocal85.org

SUB Application for Benefits: Must be on file in order to receive SUB Check. Available at the Hall.

90 Day Rule: The weeks you are claiming must be submitted within 90 days of the first Monday following the week in which you are eligible to receive a State benefit per the Plan Documents.

Taxes: There are no taxes taken out of SUB Fund Checks, however they are taxable wages and you will receive a W-2 at the end of the year. If you want taxes withheld from your SUB Fund Check, please indicate the dollar amount for Federal and State on each SUB submittal.

Address & Phone Update: Please call the Union Hall to update any address or phone number changes at (989) 799-5261.

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

Insurance: When you are working out of another Local's jurisdiction, it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back to Local 85.

RETIREE LUNCHEON: The next retirees' luncheon will be held on Tuesday, **March 17, 2026** at 12:00 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office located at 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

CONDOLENCES: Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of David Dzwik who passed away on Sept. 27, 2025.. *Fraternaly, Justin M. Pomerville Business Manager/Financial Secretary*, Local Union 85



LOCAL 174
PLUMBERS, PIPE FITTERS & SERVICE TRADES

Local 174

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

UA Local 174
COOPERSVILLE – **EMBERSHIP MEETING:** The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 7:00pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

ATTENTION: This paper is to serve as the official notice to the membership.

The retiree breakfast will be held **Thursday, April 9** at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

The 2026-2028 UA Membership Cards are now available in the front office. If you have paid your window dues through January 2026 or beyond and have not yet received your updated UA card, please contact Therese or visit the front office to collect yours.

Union Strong Phone App: If you have not downloaded our app and would like to, reach out to the front office for the link or QR code.

Organizing Update: *A big thank you to everyone who helped with the open house, it was a huge success. As an organizer, we targeted the hours of 5-7 p.m. for experienced workers. We had 8 different organizers hitting the roads all week, speaking with the Non-Union workers and inviting them to the open house; along with our members speaking with these workers, it was a huge success! I continue to receive phone calls daily, a lot of them because members are talking/ educating the unrepresentative worker about opportunities.*
Better wages, benefits, insurance you don't have to pay for, and a defined pension - the message is clear; all workers deserve a UNION!

–Work safe, Johnny Ortiz: (616) 307-8551.

Contract Ratification: At the special called meeting on July 1st, the members voted to accept the bargaining committee's recommendation and ratify the new three-year collective bargaining agreement. The new agreement is as follows:
1st year \$4.20/ 2nd year \$3.30/ 3rd year \$3.30
\$10.80 over 3 years.
Language changes:
Section 13.2 - reduces the number from issuing orders from 4 to 2 to receive foreman pay.
Section 10.2 - Health care will be on hours paid not hours worked.
*The contractors will now be administering the ESTA benefit.

Hiring Rule Reminder: As per section 5.8 of the CBA, the 50/50 hiring provision applies only to jobs working under the Local CBA. Any national agreement jobs calling for manpower are not eligible for the 50/50 provision.

Contact Information: If you need to change or verify your contact information, PLEASE CONTACT THE UNION OFFICE as soon as possible so we can keep our system up to date.

FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLXSYS). West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades Local No. 174 Fringe Benefit Funds, 5600 New King St, Suite 330, Troy, MI 48098 (855) 407-5862 Toll Free **Solxsys, Aetna, Retiree First:** If you have issues with any of our fund service providers, contact Ryan Bennett at rbennett@ua174.org. Please try to remember who you spoke with; this will help the company fix the problem.

Dues: Please keep your monthly window dues current. You can find your dues balance on the website or by calling the Union office. Remember that if you are expelled from the UA, you are no longer eligible to attend Local Union events such as meetings, picnics, awards banquets, and Christmas parties.

Retiree Dues: If you are retiring, it is the member's responsibility to inform the Union Hall on the final day of work in order to request a reduction in window dues at the Retiree Rate. Additionally, it is the member's responsibility to call Ext. 17 to notify dispatch of your retirement, providing your name, phone number, contractor name, and the date of your last day worked.

Autopay for Window Dues: As a result of the rising postage expenses and the significant number of members who have opted for autopay, we have made a change in the way receipts are delivered. Going forward, members will receive their proof of payment via email instead of traditional mail. If you are currently enrolled in autopay but do not have an email address on record and would like a receipt, please contact our office to update your information.

Dispatch: We have split up the dispatch responsibilities between the Business Agent and the Assistant Business Manager positions. Each person will be on dispatch for 2 weeks. There is a dispatch email of: dispatch@ua174.org which both offices have access to.

Jurisdiction: Remember to always call into the local you are traveling to. Do not rely on anyone else to call in for you. They will not get into trouble. It is the member who is working in another local who has not checked-in who will get in trouble. Please contact Ryan Bennett if you see another local's contractor or member working in our jurisdiction.

Metal Trades, Helpers, and Trainees: Please remember that if you are working as a Metal Trades, Helper, or Trainee your raises are based on the day you were first dispatched to work at that classification. If you are not sure of your dispatch date, please contact the Union office. **It is up to you to let the Union office know that you are due for a raise.**

Labor Councils: - Kent Ionia - 3rd Wednesday of the month / 5:00pm / Contact Nathan for location
Lakeshore – 3rd Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 Western / 6pm
All members are encouraged to become active in our area Labor Councils. Please contact a Union Officer for details. *The Kent Ionia Labor Council has recently moved from the building on Benjamin and will be rotating meeting locations monthly.

Training News:
FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month – unless otherwise noted), from 5:00pm-9:00pm. The next classes will be held **Thursday, March 12th and Thursday, April 9th, 2026.**

ORBITAL WELDING: Previously scheduled to begin in December, postponed due to lack of interest. Will reschedule with enough interest to fill a class.

WELD TEST: Test Events will be the second week of every month. Capabilities will be Tuesday nights with weld tests on Thursday nights. In the event of a union meeting being that Tuesday, we will move capabilities to a Wednesday. Next capabilities will be Tuesday, March 10th, and the test to follow Thursday, March 12th at 5pm.

PIPEFITTER FUNDAMENTALS: Class is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, March 10th @ 5:00pm – 9:00pm. The class will run weekly for six weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 10th to April 23rd @ 5-9 pm.

INDUSTRIAL RIGGING: Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 23th @ 5:00pm – 9:00pm. The class will run weekly for eight weeks on Mondays and Wednesdays, March 23rd to Wednesday, May 13th @ 5:00pm-9:00pm. Rigging practical exam will be held Saturday, May 16th beginning at 8:00am.

OPEN WELD: Available on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month; evenings beginning at 5:00pm. Watch the Facebook 'Local Union 174 Members' group page for any updates.

2026 Michigan Pipe Trades Apprentice Contest: The Training Center will be closed April 22,23 and 24th as the staff will be in Ann Arbor for the Contest. We will be available via email or cell phone during this time.

WELDER CONTINUITY: If you have weld certifications and have submitted your continuity, your **welder certification status cards are now being emailed** instead of sent via USPS mail.

If you have turned in your continuity but have **NOT** received an updated status card, please contact the Training Office to verify that we have your current email on file.

Please contact Chris Phillips or Nicole Schumaker if you have questions. Call the Training Office @ (616)837-0222 x16 (Chris) / Nicole @ (616)837-0222 x30. Or via text Chris (906)322-1592 / Nicole (231)206-4213.



DRILLING AN ANCHOR for a hanger at the Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building project in Farmington Hills is Rick Larkin of Pipe Fitters Local 636. He's employed by Western Mechanical.



LOCAL 98
PLUMBERS - UNION - PIPEFITTERS
STAMFORD - DETROIT

Plumbers Local 98



PLUMBERS 98

UA Local 98
DETROIT Membership of Plumbers Local 98.
We welcome our 2026 spring apprentice class of 32 apprentices starting this week. "Here's to new beginnings and exciting challenges, welcome to this next chapter of your journey!"

New UA Membership Cards: New cards have arrived. All members who are current on their membership dues for 2026 may stop in the hall to pick up their new cards.

Friendly reminder to stay up-to-date on your membership dues. Local 98 will be offering members who pay in full for the 2026 calendar year, or sign up for automatic deductions, a complimentary gift, get yours while they last! Members may mail payment, pay online, come into the hall or call the hall to make a payment.

Our next regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 6 pm.

The next board meeting is Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 4:30pm prior to the regular monthly meeting. The Executive Board meetings are *generally* held the first Thursday of the month at 4:30pm and before all Union Meetings.

Marathon Health: Our first two Marathon Health Clinics (Sterling Heights & Novi) will be open soon. Stay tuned for more details.

Retiree Dental: We are proud to announce we've been able to add dental coverage for our retirees. Watch your mail in the upcoming weeks for more information.

Retiree Luncheon: The next retiree luncheon is **Wednesday, March 11 at Noon.** Looking forward to seeing many of our retirees after a long winter break! Any questions, please contact retiree Dave Schroeder.

Downtown Detroit, Sunday, March 15. Local 98 will be participating in the 68th Detroit St. Patrick's Parade in Corktown. Members, families and friends are welcome. We will be meeting at the IBEW Local 58 parking lot located at 1358 Abbott St, Detroit, 48226 at 10am. Parade begins at 1pm. Please join us in marching down the parade route in solidarity on Michigan Avenue representing Local 98!

Adopt-A-Highway: Spring is just around the corner! Our semi-annual Plumbers 98/Mike Kalso Memorial Clean Up of I-94 in Macomb County is Saturday, April 11 (inclement weather back up day is Saturday, April 18). We will meet at Bob Evans in Roseville at 8am. Please RSVP with Jeff Kavalor so we can be sure to have enough supplies.

Construction Hike For Hope: Local 98 is joining in a group hike to help engage the construction industry on the importance of mental health on April 12 at Belle Isle State Park. Please call B.A Paul Smith for more details.

Attention 98 Hockey Players: The Local 98 Hockey team will be playing in the Hamilton, Ontario Canada Tournament May 1-3. Any Local 98 member interested in playing on the 98 Hockey Team, please contact FST Dan Nixon. Practice will begin soon.

Annual Summer Picnic will be **Saturday, June 20** at Lake St. Clair Metropark, Boardwalk Picnic Shelter. Watch our website and social media pages for more information in the weeks to come!

The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members, retirees, spouses/domestic partners and dependents through the age of 26. This benefit has no out-of-pocket costs and includes confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations for legal and financial matters, a discount program for goods and services, and free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326. A Ulliance Representative will lead off our January 8th membership meeting to present and answer any questions.

Pipe Up is the official podcast of the UA General President. The program offers monthly stories, skills and a look into the lives of our membership. Access the podcast at ua.org/pipeup.

Snowbirds: If you would like to temporarily change your address for correspondence from Local 98, and BeneSys, please call the hall to avoid delays in receiving your mail.

In Memoriam: Let us remember our family, friends, brothers and sisters who have recently passed: Brother Tom C. Delehant, was a 46-year member and initiated on 12-13-1979; and Brother Joseph W. Bradley, was a 76-year member and initiated on 1-5-1950. Please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers.

Expelled Members: We currently have one expelled member as of March 1, 2026, Michael Shenkosky.

SUB Apps/Out of Work List. SUB You have 48 hours to report being out of work and to fill out a SUB App whether you qualify for SUB or not. It is your responsibility to check your location on the Out of Work List. *We have a dedicated email to send your unemployment certifications and/or backup documents to receive SUB pay. Please email correspondence to: sub@ualocal98.org by Thursdays at 3:00pm to ensure ample time to process the payments.* Make sure your contact information is up to date, as well as MUST and other certifications. If you have any problems with state agencies involving unemployment, or questions on MUST models and staying current, please contact Rufus Hamilton.

Benefits. We have dedicated BeneSys employees at the Union Hall to help with the following issues: Health Insurance, HRA, SUB, Short Term Disability, Eligibility, and Claims. In order for them to best track all issues **PLEASE CALL BENESYS AT (248)641-4988 or (866)646-8919.**

We are currently looking for Industrial, Residential and Service Plumbers. If you know anyone working Non-Union, have them call us.

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship program. Learn more at www.plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship.

Additional information can be found at www.ualocal98.org, Facebook and Instagram.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Hall Operating Hours 8am to 4pm
Gary Glaser, Business Manager (313) 580-0148 gglaser98@ualocal98.org
Dan Nixon, FST (248) 752-3702 dnixon98@ualocal98.org
Rufus Hamilton, Business Agent (313)542-2758 rhamilton98@ualocal98.org
Jim Cools, Business Agent (248)762-9221 jcools@ualocal98.org
Paul Smith, Business Agent (313)938-2477 psmith@ualocal98.org
Jeff Kavalor, Business Agent (313)938-1554 jkavalor@ualocal98.org
Luke Garcia, Organizer (248) 763-2187 lgarcia@uanet.org
In solidarity, Gary Glaser, Business Manager Plumbers Local 98! Protecting the health of Metro Detroit since 1893.

Training Center News. Phone # 248-585-1435 www.Plumbers98tc.org
The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 10, 2026. Applications are submitted online only. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process. The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call the Training Center at 248-585-1435 if you have any questions.

Monthly Code Class – Next class is March 18, at 4:30 pm. This is **not** a code update class. Open to any member looking to have discussions about the interpretation of the Michigan Plumbing Code. Great refresher for anyone wanting to take a state plumbing exam. **Please call Paul Baker** at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 to register.

If you are a member who has the practical portion of the state test scheduled for May 5, 2026, we have two available evenings to come in and practice for it, Wednesday April 22, and Wednesday April 29. **Call** the Training Center if you are interested in attending either of these sessions, or both. You will be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN FALL 2026. *All classes are register and pre-pay by check or money order only.*

All Fall classes will begin the week of Sept. 14, with a deadline to register by Aug. 28.

ASSE Backflow Tester Recertification: *Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now required that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. This class is offered quarterly.* \$100
4 hour recert class April 21 & 22 Deadline is March 20
4 hour recert class July 21 & 22 Deadline is June 19
4 hour recert class October 20 & 21 Deadline is September 25

ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour): \$200
ASSE Repairer: * Prerequisite: Must hold a current 5110 Tester Certification** \$100
ICRA and Water Quality: Prerequisite: Must Have OSHA 10 or 30 - \$200
Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour): \$200
Hydronic Heating and Cooling: \$100
Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber: \$100
CAD/BIM: \$100
2025 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month. If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **Welding and Brazing sessions** will be April 4. You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

OPEN WELDING – is available on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext.146 for any welding related inquiries and to check on booth availability. For those that can't find time to get in during the weekdays, open welding will be available on the first Saturday of the month, call to get a booth.

OSHA Training - OSHA 10, available as an online class for \$59 at www.careersafeonline.com This OSHA 10 class is not affiliated with the UA or our Training Center. OSHA 10 and 30 Hour Training is also offered online through the MUST website. Go to www.mustonline.org. **Be sure to take the Construction Safety courses; not the General Industry courses.

It is each member's individual responsibility to keep all their Certifications current.

If the person you are trying to reach at the Training Center is unavailable, please leave a message to ensure we can return your call. We attempt to return all messages by the end of the business day.



Local 636

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters,
Refrigeration &
Air Conditioning Service

UA Local 636

DETROIT – Our next Regular Meeting will be held **Tuesday March 17, 2026** at **St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Drive) Southfield, MI 48075.**

PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 636 ONLINE MERCHANT STORE IS LIVE! Sign into the members section on our website www.pipefitters636.org and click the link.

SAVE THE DATE: The St. Patrick's Day parade is March 15. We will have shirts for all who attend. Contact Business Agent Jeff Lewis for more information.

Second Annual Scholarship Contest is upon us again. Deadline to apply is April 21, 2026 applications will be accepted starting March 17, 2026. Applications are open to sons, daughters and grandchildren of members of Pipefitters Local 636 in good standing. Applicants must be a high school senior and be accepted to an accredited college, community college or trade school not in direct competition with the Pipefitters Industry Training Center or currently enrolled in such school. Please contact the Union Hall for more details.

REMINDER: Please open all correspondence with the Local Union, BeneSys, and Insurance Providers you receive in the mail.

Following is a list of recent Retirees who have passed their tools and knowledge to the next generation. We thank them for their time in the field advancing our trade and the Brother/Sisterhood they continue to show in our local. **Congratulations on your retirement!**

Dec. 1, 2025; David Percy, Lloyd Tanner. **Jan. 1, 2026;** Randolph Chabot, Tommy Eftoff, David Hancock, Earl Shields, Todd Valiquette.

Deceased Members – 35 Year Member James Polio March 1, 2026; Lifetime Member William Nelson Nov. 12, 2025; Lifetime Member William J. Cullen Sr. Feb. 8, 2026; 30 Year Member Edward Nys Feb. 12, 2026; Lifetime Member George Baldrige Feb. 4, 2026; Lifetime Member Richard Charzynski Feb. 1, 2026

Our condolences to Steven Schwalb on the passing of his mother Ilene A Schwalb Jan. 19, 2026; Gary and Wayne Granger on the passing of their mother Evelyn Rose Granger Feb. 11, 2026; Patrick and William Cullen Jr. on the passing of their father William J. Cullen Sr. Feb. 8, 2026; Eric Mondro on the passing of his wife Sandra Feb. 2, 2026; Kenneth and his wife Doris Lindsay on the passing of their son Alan Jan. 28, 2026.

Get Well Wishes to: Rebecca Blair, Freddie Diepenhorst, Jeremel Ducharme, Michael Ferrante, Gregory Firth, Jason Howe, Raymond Kuhowski Jr, John Lilly, Denver Malenfant, Ian Martin, Jason McKim, Daniel Mosey, Dung Phan, Roger Pruitt, Andrew Sarniak, James Spurlock, David Stone, Scott Smith, Michael Trybuski and Sean Gale.

DUES – 1st Quarter Dues are due now. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. As a reminder AUTO PAY is available.

The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members and retirees. This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations for legal and financial matters. There is a great discount for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

988 crisis help line. The UA and the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on the way we approach mental health and suicide prevention. With the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services 988 Lifeline, new resources are now available. When people call or text 988, they will be connected to trained counselors who will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources.

CALLING ALL RETIREES! The next meeting will be held March 19, 2026

The Retiree Association is looking to recruit more retirees to their meetings. The meetings are a great place to catch up, find out helpful information and enjoy

very informative guest speakers. **The Retirees will be meeting on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 11am** at Local 636 Union Hall.

SUBPAY - NEWS. Participants should continue to send all applications and weekly proof to the SUB Fund office for review and processing by emailing subpay@pipefitters636.org.

For direct deposit information, please contact the Union Hall or BeneSys.

BeneSys has set up a dedicated phone line for Pipefitters 636 needs and questions, when calling BeneSys, please call **888-646-8920**.

Financial Advisor Jason May with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management has a **new contact number 248-540-2091** or email him at jason.may@ml.com

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. The number for the Voice response unit is **877-410-9984**. Plan provider no. is 7526. You can login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's Website, while logged in as a member Just click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the website www.accountplanaccess.net/benesys. Your initial login information is as follows: Username – Social Security number, without the dashes. Password – Full birth date, without the slashes, (mmddyyyy).

You will be prompted to update your username and password after initial login. Upon login, the site will take you to the "My Dashboard" page. Here you will be able to review a snapshot of your account balance, investments, and recent transactional activity.

Considering Retirement?

Any member may meet at the office during business hours with Jake Regits, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. Jake can be reached at ext. 5, to schedule an appointment so that he can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact our Members Phone Line 888-646-8920 at BeneSys for your retirement paperwork. **Please allow a 60–90-day notice that is necessary** to adequately process the requests for paperwork, getting the forms sent to the participant, the member completing it and returning it to the Fund Office for final processing.

Are you "Work Ready"? Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at **mustbsafe.org** and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be "ready" when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association.

WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 you will be eligible for your ready to work payment.

Training Center News.

Regular NIGHT WELDING: Monday and Thursday nights from 4pm till 8pm.

Certified BRAZING CLASS: Monday and Thursday Nights 4 till 8.

ORBITAL TUBE WELDING: Monday and Thursday nights from 4-8 with John Verran. Call Mike to sign up.

QUALIFIED BOLTING CLASS: Monday and Thursday nights from 4-8 with Kurt Moran. Call Kim to sign up.

SUPERMARKET REFRIGERATION with Jason Blouin Starts Monday March 16, 2026

ASSE WATER QUALITY CONTROL with Jason Blouin Starts Thursday March 19, 2026 CSD with Kevin Burns Starts Monday April 13, 2026

BOILER TEARDOWN with Kevin Burns Starts Thursday April 16, 2026

****We will accept applications for CONSTRUCTION Apprentices on May 25, 2026 thru Jun 6, 2026. ONLINE ONLY @ www.**

"Be sincere; be brief; be seated."

– Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882 - 1945)

"I begin to think, that a calm is not desirable in any situation in life....Man was made for action and for bustle too, I believe."

– Abigail Adams (1744 - 1818)

"Our great weariness comes from work not done."

– Eric Hoffer (1902 - 1983)



Local 333

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 333

LANSING – March's union meeting will be held March 18, 2026 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm. April's union meeting will be held April 15, 2026 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm

The 2026 UA General Convention will be held in 2026. Nominations of delegates will be held at the Feb. 18, 2026 union meeting, elections will be March 18, 2026 at our union meeting. All members that are eligible to be nominated and vote will receive a letter in the mail. Please check the mail for your letter with the date and time for the election.

UA Sec 15: All delegates to the convention shall be elected by secret ballot. Nominations of delegates shall be held by a Local Union at least (25) days prior to the election. At least (10) days prior to the nomination meeting, notice shall be mailed to the last known address of all members in good standing of the Local Union setting forth (1) the date and place of the nomination meeting, and stating that the delegates to a convention will be nominated at the meeting; (2) the notice shall also state the date, time, and place of secret ballot election of delegates to the convention; and (3) The notice should state also that in the event of a tie and a runoff election is necessary, then the date, time, and place of the runoff shall be so stated.

Protests of an election of delegates to the United Association Convention shall be processed under the provisions of Section 125 of this Constitution.

UA Sec 16: The candidate or candidates receiving the highest numbers of votes in the delegate election shall be declared the elected delegate or delegates. The candidates receiving the next highest votes shall be alternates, by descending numerical order, and shall act in case of the inability of any regular delegate to attend the convention.

UA Sec 17: No member shall be eligible as a delegate or alternate unless he shall have been a good standing member of the Local Union which he is to represent for at least (2) continuous years previous to his election and he remains in good standing from the date of his election through the period of the convention.

UA Sec 18: The duties of weekly salaried elected officers of Local Unions shall also include serving a delegate to the United Association convention for his Local Union.

Note: The interpretation of this section shall not mean that all weekly salaried elected officers are automatically delegated to the United Association Convention if the number of weekly salaried elected officers in a given Local Union exceed the number of Delegates the Local Union is entitled to. As defined in Section 12.

UA Sec 19: The Recording Secretary of each Local Union shall, after the election of a delegate or delegates, immediately forward to the General Secretary-Treasurer upon the official credential form and names, card numbers, and addresses of the members elected, and the General Secretary-Treasurer shall submit same to the Credentials Committee of the United Association.

Please remember to sign up before attending classes. We have limited space, and only those who sign up will be allowed to attend welding class.

Winter 2026 classes.

•Weld Classes begin on Jan.

5th 10 weeks

•Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906. Monday and Wednesday 4-8pm

Tuesday and Thursday 4-8pm

•Weld classes begin on Jackson Jan. 5th 10 weeks

•Jackson Training Center. 3101 Allied Industrial Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201

Monday and Wednesday 4-8pm Tuesday and Thursday 4-8pm

•Weld Classes begin Jan. 5th 10 weeks

•(KCC) RMTC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

The following classes will be held the Lansing Training Center. Please sign up online or call the Training Center if you are interested. Monday and Thursday 4:30-8pm

•Med-Gas Lansing Jan. 7th

7-8 Weeks

Monday and Wednesday 4:30-8:30pm

•Backflow Lansing Jan. 13th

7-8 Weeks

Tuesday and Thursday 4:30-8:30pm

•Tube Bending Jan. 19th 4-5 weeks

Monday and Wednesday 5-8pm

•Trimble Basic TBD

Sign up online

Advanced Blueprint Class Jan. 13th

Sign up online

Orbital Welding: Signup online, and you will be contacted.

Rigging Certification, Backflow re-certification, and Med-Gas recertification will be scheduled once we have enough members signed up.

Pipefitter Math, Advanced Pipefitting, CPR/First Aid, Backflow and Med-Gas will be scheduled when we have 6 or more signed up. You will be called when the class is scheduled.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA as of Jan. 1, 2019, all Braze and Weld certifications must be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certification. Check the dates on your certifications and if they have expired call the Lansing Training Center 517-323-0333.

Even though the Training Center sends everyone's continuities to be renewed, between changes of addresses and the Post Office, there is room for error. It is the member's responsibility to make sure their certifications are current.

Please sign up on the website or call the Lansing Training Center at 517.323.0333.

Battle Creek Retiree's Breakfasts are held on the fourth Thursday of every month at Lux Café. 2587 Capital Ave, Battle Creek, MI. at 9 am.

Retirees' Breakfast in Jackson: Retirees meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10am at the Alpha Coney Island at 1188 Jackson Crossing, Jackson, MI. **PLEASE NOTE:** The restaurant is located at the west end of the Jackson Crossing Shopping Center.

"The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members and their families. This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations on legal and financial matters. There is a great discount program for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326 or call your respective agent or Dustin at the Union Hall

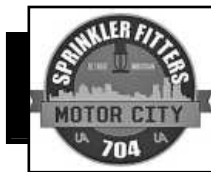
We would like to remind everyone that if you have had a life change, Please contact your regional office with updates or request new beneficiary paperwork.

March 6, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 7



WRENCHING A SPRINKLER fitting at the Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building project in Farmington Hills is Keith Olar of Sprinkler Fitters Local 704. He's employed by Shambaugh and Son.



Sprinkler Fitters

UA Local 704

SOUTHFIELD – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday March 11, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

As a reminder, your dues payment is due the last day of the month. Please sign up for **MDLive**. There is no cost for you or your family to use this App. You will be able to download it from the Apple Store or Google Play.

The Election of delegates for UA Convention will take place on Wednesday March 11, 2026, at the Union Hall. Polls will be open from 12:00 P.M. until 5:30 P.M. There will be 3 delegate spots and 3 alternate spots, the top Three (3) nominees with the most votes will serve as delegates with the remainder of the top Six (6) nominees with the most votes will serve as alternates. In case of two or more candidates for delegates tied for a position in the top six (6), a runoff will be held that evening with voting members that are still in attendance until a winner is determined.

Eligibility to be Nominated. No member shall be eligible to be nominated for Delegate unless he or she shall be a journeyman member and shall have been a member of the UA and Local 2 in good standing for at least a period of two (2) years immediately prior to the date of election, Wednesday, March 11, 2026. Any journeyman member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within a period of two (2) years immediately prior to March 11, 2026, shall not be eligible to be nominated for the position of Delegate. Under Section 160 © of the UA Constitution, no member who holds a financial interest in any business directly connected with the plumbing and pipe fitting industry may run for or serve as a Delegate.

Note that those who are elected to serve as Delegates must remain in continuous good standing through the Convention in order to serve. If a member elected to serve as a Delegate loses good standing between being elected and Convention, the highest vote-getter from the unsuccessful candidates will serve as an Alternate Delegate in his/her place.

Election Committee: Ralph Thomas, James Voodre, Chairman, Bruce Lukosavich

Reminder: Article V, Section 13 of Local 704's Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order. Any project that falls into the jurisdiction of Local 704 shall be manned by not less than two (2) members. Any member violating this By-Law shall be brought before the Executive Board for a trial and be subject to a fine.

It is the **members'** responsibility to notify the Union Hall when they return to work.

Phone numbers to remember: NASI is 1-800-638-2603 for information regarding Health and Welfare or Pension fund questions.

TIC International: 248-645-6550 for D.C. Fund distribution questions.

Jason May (Merrill Lynch): 248-540-2091 for D.C. Fund Investment questions.

A reminder to update any change of address or phone number changes with the Local Union Hall.

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

REMERICA

HOMETOWN

930 W Ann Arbor Trail
Plymouth, MI 48170
Cell: (734) 664-9090
Office: (734) 459-6222
Email: [louwasik@remerica.com](mailto:louwasisik@remerica.com)
Website: hometownmoves.com

Lou Wasik
Realtor

Longtime member of Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25

45 years of providing full-service third-party administration
BeneSys.com 877-923-6379

BenefitDriven
Powered by BeneSys
Comprehensive software solutions for self-administered funds
BenefitDriven.com 217-801-8911

BeneSys Inc.
700 Tower Drive, Suite 300
Troy, MI 48098

Local 36
Elevator
Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36
DETROIT— ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED; Our next regular membership meeting will be **March 23, 2026, 5:30pm** at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216. **This will be a special-called meeting, there was a motion made and seconded at the February membership meeting to have a picnic in 2026. The motion was tabled for discussion and vote until the March meeting according to Article XIV Section 2. 11. of Local 36 Constitution and Bylaws.** Our next Executive Board meeting will be held on **March 16, 2026, at 5pm** at the same location. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

This paper is to serve as official notice to the membership.

Attention All Members, Upcoming meetings:
March 16 – Executive Board Meeting at 5pm.

March 23 – **Special Called** General Membership meeting, 5:30pm.

March 23 following General Membership meeting – Veterans Assistant Program Committee Meeting.

April 6, 5 pm – Probationary Meeting.

The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is vap@iuec.org or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Chairman @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWPF National Co-Chair @ 410-312-1474. Locally contact Scott Erison (Local 36 VAP Chair) (586)482-0768 or email him at sanosire1973@gmail.com if you would like to get involved or have questions.

End of year statements were mailed out last week, you don't have to wait till the end of the quarter to send in your W-2. If you didn't receive it contact the hall.

If you move or your address changes, call the hall and make sure you fill out the address change form on the NEIBP website. Mail a copy to the fund office and one to the hall.

If you are going to be off with an injury (work related or non-work related), surgery or illness for a prolonged length of time, call the **fund office (800)523-4702** and inform the hall. When you are off and go back to work. The weekly Income Benefit through the international has increased to \$715 weekly after the one (1) week waiting period.

If you are unloading a job and you find the fishplates already attached to the rail, predrilled holes on machines/ beams, door equipment already installed, or any other violation, take pictures and send them to the hall via email or text with the address of the job.

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you **MUST** report those jobs to the hall! If you are going to be working a 4/10 job in construction or MOD, it **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Local Business Representative per Article VII Par. 2A. and Article VIII(A) Par. 2A. **When starting a new job please email the hall @ Local36@iuec36.org with job name, address, names of mechanics and apprentices on job, mechanic's phone numbers, how many teams, type of equipment installing, how many stops and jobsite hours.** This will help us keep track of jobs easier than just calling the hall.

Attention All Mechanics, just a reminder to Mechanics who passed the Mechanic's Exam **on or after July 9, 2022**, starting Jan. 1, 2023, and each calendar year thereafter, each mechanic shall be required to successfully complete at least eight hours of online continuing education from the curriculum published annually by NEIEP. **Required Mechanics (including assistant mechanics) that do not comply with the continuing education requirements shall not receive the wage rate increase until completion of the required continuing education curriculum. I just want to remind all members that when it comes to jumpers, we follow company safety policies, City and State code. Never use a home-made jumper, never leave a jumper**

(Continued next column)



ON THE MOVE with drywall finishing supplies at the Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building project in Farmington Hills is Brian Sullivan of Michigan Painters District Council Local 2353 member Brian Sullivan. He's employed by Barton Malow.



Local 25

Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 25

NOVI – Monday March 9, 2026 at 7:00 pm will be the Special Order of business meeting and the third and final Reading of the proposed By-Laws; we will also be reviewing all wage allocations.

All Union Halls will be open for in-person and Zoom will be available.

We continue to communicate through the **PUSH NOTIFICATIONS for alerts & emails.** You can download our APP for android on Google play or for iphone at the APP store just search "Iron Workers Local 25" Martinez web shop. **Or** sign up via our website (www.ironworkers25.org).

Voting for By-Law(s) and Wage Allocations will take place on Wednesday March 11, 2026 from 12 noon to 7:00 pm. All Union Halls including the Masonic Temple Lodge in Grand Rapids will be Open for voting. Journeyman must have their union dues paid through February 2026 or better, to be eligible to vote.

Nominations for Local Union Election of Officers and Delegates to Conventions will take place in person only at the Novi Union Hall on Monday March 23, 2026 at 7:00 pm. One must have been in continuous good standing for 24 months preceding the date of nomination to be eligible.

There will be no March Union meeting on 3/30.

The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:00 pm. The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday March 18, 2026 at 5:30 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday March 26, 2026 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

DEADLINE NEAR: The 2026 Dennis O'Dowd SCHOLARSHIP Rules & Application form is available on the member only section of our website and APP; or you can call Mary at the Novi Union Hall to request one 248-344-9494. *All requests must be made by Friday March 6 and all Completed applications are due by March 13, 2026.* These are for sons/daughters of full dues paying active/working members of Ironworkers Local 25 who are in their senior year of High School. The member must have a minimum of five years continuous membership to be eligible.

A HEALTH CARE REP-

Local 36, con't

on critical safety devices or leave devices defeated. Not only is this against your company's safety policy, but it's also violates ASME A17.1-2016/CSA B44:16 8.6.1.6.1 Making Safety Devices Inoperative or Ineffective, 8.6.1.6.3 Controllor and Wiring (c) & (e).

Attention All Temporary Mechanics, your Temporary Mechanic's Agreement **MUST** be signed by the end of each month **at the Union meeting.** If you can't make the Union meeting (for good reasons) to sign your agreement, then come down to the hall **NEXT MORNING.** If we continue to have problems getting these signed, you will be called down in front of the Executive board. If you are put back to Apprentice status, **your personal tools MUST be taken off the job, out of your vehicle and notify the hall.**

Attention All Retirees, if you requested an Honorary Card and have not received it, please contact the Hall.

If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can put you on the email list.

We wish a speedy recovery for the Brothers and Sisters on our sick and injured list.

RESENTATIVE from the Fringe Benefit Fund office will be at the Novi Union Hall on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 from 8am to 12 noon; to meet with any member(s), to address health care issues or HRA substantiation concerns Call ahead, or walk-in!

A FRINGE FUND PENSION DEPT REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE AT THE NOVI UNION HALL on Wednesday April 1, 2026 from 8 am to 12 noon. If you wish to book an appointment or have questions, give us a call 248-344-9494. Walk-ins are welcome also!

"Congratulations Todd Masters on achieving Journeyman Line Clearance for IBEW Local 17. Todd is the son of IW Todd Masters #1160770 of Local 25 and wife Liz Masters, who was awarded Journeyman on Feb. 18, 2025."

If you have moved recently, please be sure to update the Union Hall 248-344-9494. We will gladly advise the Fringe Benefit Fund office of your move upon request.

The ClickSafety program allows ironworker members to meet a variety of training requirements, offering over 100 online courses in English and Spanish that include many OSHA-authorized courses. Simply log in: <https://sms.copperrange.com/impact/sms/login/>

The username is the member's book # and the password is the FIRST 4 digits of your SSN

Apprentices: located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find "Make-Up Days" & "Welding Test Certifications" where you can electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests. To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to our website (ironworkers25.org); to view the 2025 or 2026 Block Schedule, Roster and Raising Gang Schedule. Please make sure to download the Trade-School Mobile App to submit your monthly work and school hours. These must be submitted monthly. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow. Wixom Training Center Phone: 248-960-2130.

We take Apprentice applications year-round! Visit our website (ironworkers25.org) where you can print your application, make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; you must have an appointment to turn in an application. We take appointments Tuesday – Thursdays! No walk-in foot traffic.

BENEFIT FOR LIFE CHANGE: *Any member experiencing a divorce or a new spouse MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office within 31 days; otherwise wait until the open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).*

BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD: *Any member who has a newborn child, or a new dependent child through marriage MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office of your new dependent within 31 days; otherwise wait until the open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).*

FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 800-572-8553 or 248-347-3100 and follow the prompts. Hours 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. The mailing address for member BENEFIT related matters is: Iron Workers Local 25 Fringe Benefit Funds, PO Box 99219, Troy MI 48099-9219. Blue Cross Health Claims and Customer Service 877-790-2583. Delta Dental Claims and Customer Service 800-482-8915.

If any member is having problems with the HRA substantiation letters please call Dennis Aguirre.

Check your HRA/Benny Card Balance: my.wexhealthcard.com (where you can create a login)

Check you online benefit information: ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/

HRA/Benny Card Audit is continuously under way via US Mail – please respond if you have been contacted. You need to save your receipts for three years.

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees' Club: The Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday, March 17 at 10 am. The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday April 7 at 8 am. All are welcome.

Local 25 Retirees' Club 2026 Scholarship is available. Eligibility Requirements: child or grandchild of a retired Local 25 member. Applicant must be in their Senior year of high school with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Retiree must have a *minimum of five years continuous* Local union membership and be a member of the Iron Workers' Local 25 Retiree' Club as of the prior year and must be current on their *annual* club dues to be eligible and apply. Full rules & application please contact John Miller: **Prefer that you TEXT TO: (734) 812-8036.** All requests must be made by Tuesday March 17, 2026. Completed applications due by 5pm EST April 30, 2026.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 9 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the **Bay City Chapter** will April 16, 2026; at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeview St. Saginaw MI 48604 at 12 pm. All are welcome.

The Downriver Chapter next quarterly Retirees breakfast to be held 9 am April 17 at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, 48183. All are welcome.

The IRONWORKER Magazine To subscribe to the digital edition please use the following link: <https://www.ironworkers.org/s/ironworker-digital-sign-up>

Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan: www.bcbsm.com/behavioral-mental-health/ Resources on the home page including In-Person Crisis Care options in many locations throughout the state. BCBS Michigan 877-627-1041 Substance-use-disorder.

When the World feels Heavy: FindTreatment.gov is where you can search by zip code/city. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-4357. MentalHealth.gov provides information & programs about mental health. Dial 988 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) For help 24/7 in a Time of Crisis. Call or text 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. You can also Chat at 988lifeline.org/chat (English & Spanish). Whatever you are struggling with, help is available – its free & confidential.

In Memory: Lifetime IW William Parker Jr #946396 passed away Feb. 19, 2026 at the age of 68. He was a 50-year member. He will be missed by all who knew him. Journeyman S.B.E. Ron Zazo passed away Feb. 24, 2026 at the age of 53. He was a member for approximately 24 years. He is survived by his son Alexander Zazo #1502757.

Our sincere condolences to all of the family and friends on the loss of your dear loved one(s).

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (March 2, 2026 11 AM E.S.T.).



PDC 1M

WARREN – Dear Members, **DC1M WEBSITE:** www.iupat-dc1michigan.org

DC 1M UNION CARDS*

Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or have



ROBERT GONZALEZ

FTI of the GREAT LAKES/UP-

GRADE CLASSES WARREN FTI APPRENTICESHIP:

Saturday, February 14th- Confined Space -9AM

Wednesday, February 11th- Confined Space Part #1 -5PM

Wednesday, February 18th- Confined Space Part #2 -5PM

Respiratory Protection, March 5th- 5pm

Scaffold Awareness, March 12th- 5pm

Rigging/Signaling, March 28th- 9am

OWOSSO FTI APPRENTICESHIP:

Scaffold Awareness, March 19th- 5pm

Rigging/Signaling March 14th- 9am

Contact Director Shawn Oneill for more information or to sign up. (517)304-4425 or email dot@iupatdc1m.org

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP

Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its' all new APP.

For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID got to Google Playstore

Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP

Username: your member id# Password: painters

With this APP you can access training classes, Local Union meeting times and dates, receive alerts, and communications from your Union, etc.

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

OUT OF WORK/ BACK TO WORK: To keep work placement efficient, please notify the office when you are laid off or going back to work.

Warren office# is 586-552-4474 or Freeland office# is 989-695-6888.

New job starts should be reported to the Union office, please do so. Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

WARREN – Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, 48088 at 5pm. If you are a member in good standing, please make it a priority to attend.

We still have several Local 357 members currently laid off. Please make every effort to make sure your certifications are up to date. This will help get you back to work.

The IUPAT pension has updated the pension website. There is new information that could be helpful. Iupatpension.org

The IUPAT has a new app that you can download. It's called IUPAT Mobile Member Portal. You can find this in the app store, and it is a free app. Once you download this app, you will need your union member id to log in. You can find your member ID printed on your quarterly union card. Once you log into this app it's a helpful tool to track your hours worked, and it also has a digital copy of your union card.

Keep your working status current; this helps protect your benefits. If you have a mailing address and/or telephone number change, please notify the Union and Fund Offices of the changes.

Dues payments may be mailed to the Union Office at 14587 Barber Avenue, Warren, MI 48088. Make checks payable to: **DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M (Continued next column)**

Michigan Painters

District Council



District Council 1M

Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez

Meeting date: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.

Place: 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933

Local Union 514

Business Rep: Scott Mikulen

Meeting dates: 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.

Web site: www.iupat-local514.org.

Local Union 826

Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman

Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845

Business Rep – Ed Bracamontes

Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

Place: 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

Local Union 1052

Business Rep – Jake Fluty

Meeting date: The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m

Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

Local Union 1803

Business Rep: Josh Ovalle

Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Place: 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Local Union 2352

Business Rep: Jeremy Haviland

Meeting Date: 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

Local Union 2353

Business Rep: Tony Parker

Meeting date: 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.



Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN –The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 7, at 6:00p.m. trustees and union stewards meet at 5:45 p.m.

Members must be in good standing (dues up to date) with district council 1 app or receipt of paid dues to attend meeting

Anyone possessing a union membership and willingly works at a nonunion shop doing union work can have charges preferred against them under Sec. 16.4, and 19.8 of the District Council By-laws

Questions pertaining to Local 591 Pension Fund issues call 248-645-6550 and/or Health Care issues call 248-358-3340 or 800-482-8736 which will then be answered directly through fund office.

OUT OF WORK: BACK TO WORK: procedure for out of and back to work: When laid off or going back to work, call the office. 586-552-4474

Local 357, cont

in care of Glassworkers #357.

When traveling to work out of town, all members are reminded that they must check in with the local that you are working in as per the International Constitution and our local C.B.A.

The Fund Office address is Michigan Glass and Glazing Joint Funds, P.O. Box 966, Troy, MI 48098-066; phone number: 248-641-4957; fax 248-813-9898.

If you are in need of safety modules, please contact your employer if you are employed or the union office @ 586-552-4478, if you're not. Any questions call the hall or call the Council @ 586-552-4474. Participation is very important to keep our union strong, so try to make it to a meeting. – **Business Rep. Don Stepp**





IBEW 445
BATTLE CREEK – Save the date for the IBEW 445 Golf Outing, on July 25.

Local 445 Officer Nominations Please plan on attending the May 11, 2026, Union Meeting. At this meeting, nominations for officers will be handled. Please consider putting your name in for Officer Elections! You have a voice in YOUR Local!!! Watch your mailboxes for additional information.

Wage Allocation Meeting Please watch your mailboxes for the upcoming date for the Wage Allocation meeting. The meeting will be in May 2026, but the date has not been set.

Local 445 Election of Officers. Please add to your calendar the elections for Local 445 Officers will be on June 8, 2026. Watch your mailboxes for additional information. You will want to attend the June Union Meeting for the results of that day's Officer Elections.

Paying dues late. If you pay your Monthly/Quarterly Union Dues late, you will be assessed a \$10.00 assessment for each month late. If you do not pay for the Late Fee Assessment, it will be added to your account as a delinquent amount due. If you are unsure if you have an amount due on your account, please call Wanda at the Hall to verify your status.

Death Benefit Assessments. Please contact the Hall to verify if you have any Death Benefit Assessments due on your account before paying your dues so that you can add it to your quarterly due's payment.

Organizing. If you know of any Electricians interested in joining the IBEW, please contact Travis at (269) 339-8377. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 2022 Constitution states **“The object of the IBEW is to organize all workers in the entire electrical industry”.**

The Retiree monthly breakfast at 9am at Lux Café at 2587 Capital Ave SW. Mark your calendar for the third Thursday of each month to attend.

2025 dues structure. The Delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention, which was conducted in Chicago, Illinois, during the week of May 9-13, 2022, approved several amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution.

As of **January 1, 2026**, the following due's structure:

JIWs:
Monthly \$61.00
Quarterly \$183.00
Apprentices:
Monthly \$50.00
Quarterly \$150.00

The new Local 445 app & website are now live. Local 445 Members can register to access the app. You are now able to pay your dues online via the app or website. Please visit the app & website to access the calendar of events. Please notify the Hall if you have any questions or concerns with the App or Website.

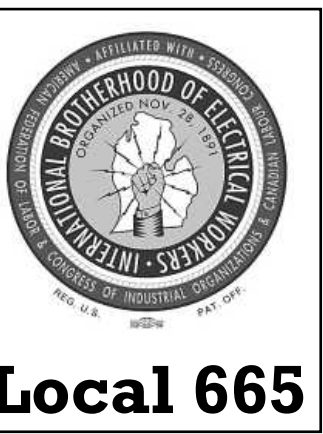
The General Membership Meeting is on the second Monday of each month and starts at 5:00 p.m. at the Hall.

Local Website - Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. The Local 445 web address is **IBEW445.com**. Make sure you check out the **Benefits Tab** for important related websites.

2026 Personal information Please keep your address, phone number and email address up to date at the Hall. Also, contact the Hall with marriages, births of children and divorces. You have a limited time frame to add/remove dependents. Beneficiary cards and forms are also available at the Hall when you need to update them.

Executive Board E-Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m. *Respectfully Submitted, Wanda Secrest Recording Secretary*

“Against logic there is no armor like ignorance.”
—Laurence J. Peter (1919 - 1988)
“Be not ashamed of mistakes and thus make them crimes.”
—Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC)



IBEW 665
LANSING – **IBEW Local 665 100 Year Anniversary:** IBEW Local 665 will be turning 100 years old in June 2026. Please save the date June 6, 2026 to celebrate with us at the Lansing Center. **Please be looking in your email and on Facebook because invitations will be mailed out at the end of February 2026. Please make sure to RSVP as soon as possible.**

WORK OUTLOOK: Projected to be busy throughout 2026. There are many projects going currently in IBEW Local 665 jurisdiction. The 26-story tower in downtown Lansing. The LG battery plant is still going strong with more work to come. MSU plans to spend \$2 billion over the next four to five years and a possible 24MW data center downtown. Not to mention all the schoolwork this summer.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Local 665 has reached a milestone. We have 852 members in the Local. Of which 200 are apprentices. With all the new faces around please remember it is a Journeymen's job to teach first and empower the next generation to learn and grow.

Upcoming events at Local 665:

Euchre Tournament: Saturday, March 7, \$10.00 entry fee. Check in at 4pm. Tournament starts at 4:30pm.

Blood Drive: Friday, March 13. Appointments preferred – call 866-642-5663. Walk-ins welcome as schedule allows.

Retirement Seminar: Wednesday, April 29, at IBEW Local 665 Hall. 5-8pm. Food and drink will be provided. Spouses are welcome and encouraged to come. Everyone is welcome to come from JIW getting ready to retire to apprentices just getting started and everyone in between.

Veteran's Shoot: Saturday, June 13. This event is free to all veterans, not just 665 members. 50 targets – Trap and 5 stand. Shells will be provided. Shooting begins at 11am. Free Lunch for veterans, \$10 for guest. Preregistrations and additional information please contact **Dan Kelley 517-202-2326 or CASLSHot-gun@gmail.com**

Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program. If you are interested in helping our local secure more work in the Lansing area, it is critical we sign up for this training. This program is looking to be required by the federal government to work on any large-scale electric vehicle charger stations. The program is online on your blended learning platform. Please email Dale@lejatec.org or contact the apprenticeship office with questions or how to sign up.

The next CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING will be on April 28 from 5-7 at IBEW Local 665 Hall. Please contact LEJATC at 517-483-9688 to sign up for training.

HARASSMENT TRAINING has been adopted as part of our contract. It is required for all our members to complete it. Please reach out to LEJATC to sign up for it. You can email Dale@lejatec.org to receive instructions on how to complete it.

APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS: We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665's apprenticeship program. To apply, go to **www.lejatec.org** and navigate to the application page on the website. Applications are accepted on the **THIRD** Monday of each month.

DRUG TEST / MUST MODS: If you are planning on doing any NMA or GM jobs this year, please make sure you are current on your 18 MUST mods or OSHA 30 certification and MUST drug test. Contact the hall if you need your annual drug test or your 18 must mods.

OUR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING is on the third Monday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm at the Hall. Remember that we have a wage allocation this year and nominations are in May's meeting for Business Manager, E-board, Recording Secretary and Delegates for the IBEW International Convention.

EXECUTIVE BOARD
(Continued next column)



IBEW 557
SAGINAW - **UPCOMING UNION EVENTS** – The next Local 557 Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, at 6 pm. Retirement Seminar with the Hantz Group is March 12 at 6 pm.

RENEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS – These meetings occur immediately following each Monthly Union Meeting. The current committee is in the process of organizing several events in the coming months. They will be looking for volunteers to march in the Freeland Walleye Festival Parade on Friday, April 24. The parade starts at 6pm with report time at 5pm. The RENEW committee will also be operating a booth during the festival and is looking for more help with this as well.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE in BAY CITY – Local 557 has agreed to co-sponsor the parade in a joint venture with the Tri-County Building Trades. Much of the Local Building Trades affiliates will be represented. Local 557 is looking for volunteers to attend the event and represent our Local. If you are interested in helping and possibly carrying the Local's banner, please reach out to the Hall.

35th SENATE SEAT SPECIAL ELECTION –The General Election date of May 5 will be here quickly. Labor Candidate Chedrick Greene and his team are looking for supporters to help canvas and get the word out to cast your vote. Volunteer opportunities are available for those who may want to help. Please consider taking some time to help in this important election.

FINANCIAL PLANNING/RETIREMENT INFORMATION NIGHT – Local 557 believes preparing members for the future and retirement is important. Each year in March the Local hosts a retirement information night. This year's event has been set for **March 12 at 6pm**. Representatives from the Hantz Group will also be in attendance. No matter what stage you are at in life, it never hurts to learn more about the retirement programs offered through the IBEW. Hantz Group will be providing food for the event. Please RSVP ahead of time for planning purposes.

LOCAL 557 NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION – On Feb. 24 the latest edition of New Member Orientation was held. There were almost 30 new members in attendance. Very good discussions ensued from the class. The intent of the class is to offer a great introduction to the Brotherhood.

POKER NIGHT RETURNS –The next scheduled Poker night of the year will be **Thursday, March 19. Start time is 6pm.** This will most likely be the last Poker before being replaced by Golf League Night. Please come out for some friendly games between Brothers.

LOCAL 557 RE-VAMPED WEBSITE & PAYING DUES ONLINE – The feature to pay dues online is now fully active. The credit card fee for using this feature is also less than the normal of providing your card information to the Hall either over the phone or in-person. To pay dues online, you will need to initially set up the new service by entering your card number as

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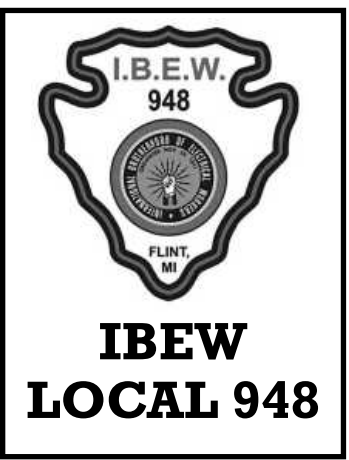
MEETINGS: The Executive Board meets on the second and third Monday of each month starting at 5:00 p.m.

DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS: Quarterly dues are due. We are on death benefit #359. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are current.

BENEFICIARIES: If you have recently gotten married, divorced, had children, etc., please make sure you update your beneficiaries. Forms are available at the hall.

IN REMEMBRANCE: In remembrance of 665 local members who have passed away. May their memory be eternal.

Joseph Perkins 02/20/2026, Bruce Pettinger 12/01/2025, Charlie Fabiano 12/21/2025, Richard Dunlap 12/11/2025, Darold English 11/28/25, Michael Quintieri 11/15/25, Douglas Maki 09/17/25, Randolph Dehate 07/01/25, Glendon “Bill” Toaz 06/10/25, David McLellan 05/28/25.



IBEW 948

FLINT – Meetings.
Membership Meeting – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be March 9th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree Meetings – Retirees will be off the next couple months, next meeting will be April 7th, 2026 at 9:00am.

Book Signing - For any members looking to sign our books please refer to our hotline at (810) 767-3308 Ext #5 or report directly to the hall.

Work Outlook - Our work outlook is steady with a slow ramp possible leading to the upcoming months. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and resigns.

Dues Reminder - Members, please ensure your dues are paid in full. For any questions, concerns, or payments please see Jenny Wallace or call the main office at (810) 767-3308.

Seeking New Membership - As always, we are actively seeking to organize new membership. For any questions, concerns, or interest please contact Organizer Eric Crites.

New Store Stock - To all members interested, we have merchandise at our hall. Stock includes shirts, hoodies, hats, and other apparel. For any questions or purchases please contact Jenny Wallace.

New Membership - Welcome to our latest member Maxwell Cavric. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

Retirees - Congratulations to Martin Morris on your pension application. The membership would like to wish you a healthy and relaxing retirement.

Draping of the Charter - Our condolences to the family of David Botbyl. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.

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the username and the temporary password is your last name and the last 4 digits of your SSN. Upon completing this, you will then be prompted to change your password to one of your choosing.

If you haven't checked this out yet, please do as it is very convenient. Logging into this member portal also allows members to check positions on the Out of Work List and Job Calls when they are available. Please note that if there are no current job calls, you will only see a message displaying basic instructions for how to take a call when they are available.

SAGINAW SPIRIT GAMES –The season is winding down. The Spirit appear to be poised to make the playoffs. All season tickets and Suite Night games have all been given away. If the playoff tickets become available, more information will be sent out for those looking to attend and cheer on the hometown team. If you received tickets for the Eagle's Nest game on March 14th, please be sure to use them or drop back off at the Hall for others to use. The Local also has new Saginaw Spirit themed gear available for purchase at the Hall.

LOCAL 557 ORGANIZING- Organizing is the lifeblood of any Local Union Rex and Gus are doing great work for Local 557 on the organizing front. Organizing is a tough task. Some conversations with unrepresented workers are harder than others. Please give Rex and Gus all the help they need to succeed and get results for the Local. If you see something and wish to point it out to them, please reach out to Rex at 989-890-4578 and Gus can be reached at 989-941-8046.

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday **7am to 12pm, CLOSED for lunch, and re-open again from 1pm to 4:30pm.**

BOOK SIGNING- If you are a Local 557 member and receive a lay-off while working on a 557 Book 1 referral or apprentice training assignment, you must come to the hall and sign Book 1 or the apprentice out of work list in-person.

March 6, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 9



IBEW 131
KALAMAZOO – **IBEW Local 131 App and Website Launch:** Local 131 has launched its new app, which can be found on Apple and Google Play stores by searching “IBEW 131.” You can create a log in on either the web page or the app and it will work for both platforms. The app allows members to bid available jobs, access the contract, by-laws, benefits information, licensing information, UI-liance services, our calendar of events and much more. Please keep in mind that we are working to integrate our systems with the app and webpage, so please be patient.

Uiliance is Local 131's Member Assistance Program that offers mental health counseling, financial planning, legal assistance, divorce support, substance use support, parental counseling, elder care advice, and much more. If you or a friend could benefit from support, please call 1-800-448-8326 to speak with a professionally trained advisor and counselor today.

DBRF Assessment: In 2025, a new bylaw was approved to increase the Death Benefit Retirement Fund to \$10 per member for each retiree/decedent with 10 years continuous good standing prior to retirement/death. This benefit is to be assessed once per year at the end of the year. This means each member will be assessed \$10 for every Local 131 member who retired or died as an active member after April 25, 2025. DBRF assessments have begun appearing on monthly assessment. The anticipated assessment will be \$70. This assessment will appear on your next monthly dues payment.

The next **General Membership** Meeting will be held on April 6 @ 6PM.

The next **Renew & EWMC** meeting will be held on Monday March 16, 5PM @ the hall

Veteran's Committee Meeting: March 5th @ 5PM, VFW Post 667 in South Haven 1070 S Bailey Ave, South Haven, MI 49090

The Executive Board meeting will be held Monday, March 16. **Brotherhood Night** is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the Month @ CJ's **beginning at 3:30.** 1027 Schuster Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Keep an eye out for location changes on the Local's FB page.

Hall Hours: Monday thru Friday 8AM to 4:30PM – Lunch hour between 12:30 and 1:30

Upcoming Events:
Retiree Quarterly Meetings – March 10, 1PM, @ the hall – meeting to discuss retiree issues

Officers & Stewards Contract & Conduct Review - 5 p.m. March 10
Pension Self Direct – March 25th @ 730PM
Spring Member Orientation Breakfast – March 21st (Official) Steward Training – June 11th
Spring Member Orientation Breakfast – March 21st
Solidarity Education Dinner – April 22nd
Governing, Construction, and Mega Projects – April 30 (tentative)
Allocation Meeting – May 4th
Local 131 Picnic – August 1st

Local 131 110th Anniversary – Sept. 12 @ Gun Lake Casino
Fall Member Orientation Breakfast – October 10th

Work Outlook: Many members are working in neighboring locals, particularly Blue Oval Battery Plant in Marshall. As work slows down there, more members are taking calls at Palisades Nuclear Facility. The work situation in and around Local 131 appears to be steady through spring. Palisades is expected to begin construction of its new SMRs sometime in 2026. They are clearing ground, but we don't expect manpower need on new construction until 2027. Palisades recommissioning work continues to require manpower with PCI Energy and Champion still placing manpower requests. That work is expected to continue until at least June. Liberty Solar Project is expected to need 70 wiremen at peak. It is an NMA Project, scheduled to begin in April of this year and run until April of 2027.

Retiree's Lunches at the following Locations:

March 18-11AM, McGonigle's Irish Pub, 3512 W. Main St., Kalamazoo
April 15, 11AM, Nob Hill Bar & Grill, 4218 S. Sprinkle Rd., Kalamazoo
Every Tuesday, a group of Retirees meets at The Crew, 5200 Portage Road, Portage, MI @ 10 a.m.

On the last Friday of each month, a group of retirees and others, meet at Jac's Cekola's Pizza, 3112 South Ninth Street, Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.

Members Three Months in Arears or More: Grant Beach, Jeffrey Berner, Jason Fairfield, Eric Lockwood, Mathew Pelicano, Justin Prisk, Jacob Rhoda, Bryce Stewart, Jason Streit, Cory Werner-Hoskins.
–Jonathan Current, Business Manager, IBEW Local 131

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES

BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 35 YEARS

BIESKE & ASSOCIATES

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 55 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themselves at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. They maintains offices in Sterling Heights, Livonia, Southgate and Novi. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

- ONLY SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY CASES
- WE WILL PERSONALLY REPRESENT YOU
- OUR FEE PAID AFTER YOU WIN

www.ssdfighter.com





IBEW Local 692

BAY CITY – **Union Meeting.** The next monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, April 6th, 2026.**

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, March 16th, 2026.**

Message from the Business Manager. Brothers and Sisters, I have been having conversations with Training Director Casey Stoike and his team circling around the opportunity of offering classes to our membership who have surpassed the apprenticeship school in their career. The upcoming opportunities approaching for continuing education in the electrical industry are Arc Flash Training and also a class on Medium Voltage Terminations.

The first class revolves around Arc Flash Safety. The Arc Flash course will teach proper personal protective equipment, safety boundaries, and various other safety related topics revolving around Arc Flash potential. Please Contact Training Director Stoike at (989) 686-4890. A date for this class will be determined once we have the number of members interested.

A medium voltage cable terminating class will also be held in the near future. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Training Director Casey Stoike at (989) 686-4890. A certificate of completion will be offered upon completion of course. A class date will be determined once the class has been filled.

St. Patrick's Day Parade. IBEW Local 692 will be participating in the Bay City St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 15th at 2PM. An email will be sent out with specific details as the date approaches. Please join us in celebrating this annual event, all members are encouraged to bring their families. This event is always an amazing time. Hot dogs and refreshments will be provided.

2026 IBEW International Annual Golf Tournament. The 2026 IBEW International annual golf tournament is being held in Akron, Ohio followed by Columbus Ohio in 2027. This year's 3-day tournament will be held August 19th – 21st. Included is 3 rounds of golf and a banquet on the last day with awards and prizes. Additionally, open bar daily with food and snacks, all for \$275.

Interested members can contact Terry Brandenburg (586-854-3447). **Registration deadline is Monday, June 1st.**

Work Report. The work report in our jurisdiction continues to be solid. Many calls have been very difficult to find the amount of help needed. Calls that may require additional manpower include:

Nelson Electric is still on site at Bay City Powertrain.

AZCO continues work at Consumers Energy's Karn Solar site in Essexville. More calls are expected in early Spring.

Van Ert Electric continues work on their solar project in Gladwin and more calls are expected any time.

Countyline Power has secured a high voltage termination project at Michigan Sugar in Bay City.

Clements Electric's work on the Midland Center for the Arts and Dow Gardens Welcome Center continues, as does work at the Bay County Health Department. Contracts for Oddfellows Hall in Midland, a housing development in Downtown Bay City, Bay City Animal Control and Bay County Road Commission have all been signed with work to start soon. Another housing complex in Auburn is also under way. Work also continues at Mersen for Clements along with being awarded a nice project out to Michigan Sugar in Bay City

Conti Electric has projects that are ramping up inside the I-Park (Dow) and ongoing work at the Karn Generation Facility, also some work at Michigan Sugar.

Escon Group has some work in Midland's I-Park and has also been recently awarded both Bangor Schools and McLaren's West campus.

Master Electric continues work at Clare County Road Commission. Master has also picked up a couple small jobs out to CMU.

Teds Electric continues

work at Clare Schools

Bay Valley Electric is finishing up some work in downtown Bay City and will start work at Alpena Community College's dorm project at the endo of this month.

John's Electric continues work at Clear Lake and Hoefst State Parks. **Swan Electric** has secured a decent upcoming project at TCE Charlton in Johannesburg. **Northern Valley** continues work at the Holcim Cement Plant and has secured Alpena's Meijer remodel set to start in April.

If you are looking for work, please do not hesitate to contact the Union Hall. Please note when calling the job line to use extension #1.

In Solidarity, Ryan Charney Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Organizers' Report. We have spent the past month working directly with students from Bay-Arenac ISD to prepare for Skills USA's Regional and State electrical construction competitions. On February 20th, three Bay-Arenac students and three students from Huron County, instructed by IBEW 692 JIW and full-time electrical instructor Mark Aymen, competed at our Training Facility. The contestants were tasked with a residential wiring and conduit fabrication exercise. All three Bay-Arenac students are moving on to the State finals. We would like to thank 692 member and former Skills USA State Champion Randy Bernard, who served as judge.

New Member Orientation will be scheduled later this winter. All members are highly encouraged to attend these training sessions at some point, either for the first time or as a refresher course. A newsletter, *New Member Minute*, has been created to inform wiremen and apprentices about topics such as benefits, contracts, dues, referral procedures, etc. All members are welcome to request being added to the list to receive these informative newsletters by emailing organizers.

PAL and COMET training sessions will continue, all members are welcome to attend. Dates and times will be shared in future Building Tradesman articles.

Please work safely and let us know if you have any questions regarding organizing or work reports around the state.

B r e n d o n B a r a n e k
989.327.4131 Kevin Klapish
252.9225

Union Dues. There is no dues rate increase for the 2026 calendar year. Monthly dues will remain at \$49.20.

To avoid a reinstatement fee, please remember to keep your dues current.

Retirees Lunch. The March retiree lunch is scheduled for 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 19th at Beer and Brats, located at 4562 Eastman Road, Midland.

Fringe Benefits. REMINDER: if you have recently been married, divorced, had children, etc. make sure your beneficiaries have been updated accordingly. Beneficiary forms can be obtained from the hall.

REMINDER: If you contact the Health Plan Office about going on short term disability, it is important for you to notify the Hall as well. A copy of your paperwork will need to be submitted to the Hall for your file. This will also freeze your position on the out of work list.

Important links & numbers

Health Plan & Pension Fund
855.633.4584 – ASK FOR AC-COUNTS RECEIVABLE
www.michiganelectrical.org
NEBF/NEAP: 301.556.4300
IO Pension: 202.833.7000

“Help others get ahead. You will always stand taller with someone else on your shoulders.”

– Bob Moawad

“The penalty for success is to be bored by the people who used to snub you.”

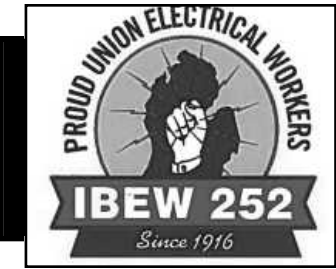
–Nancy Astor (1879 - 1964)

“Mix a little foolishness with your prudence: It's good to be silly at the right moment.”

–Horace (65 BC - 8 BC)

“Sleep after toil, port after stormy seas, ease after war, death after life does greatly please.”

–Edmund Spenser (1552 - 1599)



IBEW Local 252

ANN ARBOR – **BE SURE TO KEEP BENEFICIARY FORM UPDATED:** A friendly reminder that beneficiary forms are available at the fund office **AND** at the hall for anyone that may need to update beneficiary information. If your information needs to be updated, it needs to be updated at **BOTH**.

TRAINING CLASSES 2025: ALL CLASSES START AT 5:00 PM

EPRI Part B- January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17. (Ten classes total from Jan 13-Mar 17)

Conduit Bending- Every other Thursday beginning on February 12 and ending April 2. (6 classes)

Masters Prep- 6 Classes beginning March 2 and ending April 6.

BICSI Installer 1- Every Monday starting March 2 and ending June 1

OSHA 30- April 21, 23, 28, 30, May 5, 7, 12 & 14

BICSI Fiber/ Tech- Every Monday beginning June 8 and ending Aug 31

Fire Alarm- Every Wednesday except Union meeting night, starting Sept 2 and ending Oct 21. NICET PREP- Every Wednesday except Union meeting night, starting Oct 28 and ending Dec 23 (book purchase required, call the training center for more information

CPR- March 3 & 10, June 2 & 9, September 1 & 15, December 1 & 8.

Additional classes will be added as they become available. For interest in a class not listed, call the training center. All classes require a \$50 deposit. Call the school 734-475-1180 to add your name to the desired class ahead of time. All evening classes are held from 5-9 PM.

IBEW 252 APP FOR ANDROID: If you use an android phone, you must redownload the IBEW 252 app, which is now available in the app store.

WINTER GATHERING: This year's winter gathering will be on Monday, March 9th at 11:30 a.m. We meet at the Golden Coral, 4705 US Highway 98 North in Lakeland, FL. Hope to see you there. We really do have a good time, lots of laughs.

EASTER EGG HUNT: Renew's 7th Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on March 28th from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Union Hall. Activities include an easter egg coloring contest, easter egg hunt with prizes for kids under 10, games for all ages, and visits from the Easter Bunny. If possible, please RSVP to Dan Beck (810) 858-0033

RETIREE'S CARD GAME: The first Thursday of every month Local 252 and UA 190 retirees meet at the Union Hall for card games and donuts. The games start at 9 a.m. Please join the fun.

RETIREE'S BREAKFAST: The Retiree's Breakfast will take place on the second Wednesday of each month at **9:00 a.m. (new time)** at Leo's Coney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances at both the front and rear of the restaurant.

M.U.S.T. DRUG TESTING: Please make sure your MUST drug testing is current as you cannot work on a U of M project or several other projects in the jurisdiction without being current. Local 252 has a zero tolerance for alcohol or drug use.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Local 252 partners with Health Management Systems of America to provide Employee Assistance for several issues. For confidential 24/7 assistance, call toll-free 1-800-847-7240, or visit www.my-life-resource.com and use username: hmsa, password: myresource for more information.

AFLAC INSURANCE: Aflac has teamed up with the IBEW to offer its members Aflac benefits at a reduced rate. Contact Representative Lisa Enerson for information about Accident, Cancer, Critical Care, Dental and Vision insurance from Aflac. Phone number: (517) 306-0144.

RETIREMENT: NEBF and IBEW PBF applications take 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. If you are nearing retirement, please contact Alana at the Union Hall to start your

IBEW LOCAL 252

paperwork at least 3-6 months before your planned retirement date. You will be asked to submit copies of social security cards, birth certificates, marriage certificate, divorce decrees, etc. for you and your spouse with your applications. For a full list of required documents please contact the Union Hall.

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 12/2025, your dues are not current. The Union Hall accepts payment by cash, check or credit card. There is a 3% discount for paying by cash or check. Dues for “A” members are \$143.25 by cash or check, or \$147.55 by credit card per quarter for 2026. Dues for “BA” members are \$73.80 by cash or check, or \$76.01 by credit card per quarter for 2026. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your first quarter dues (January through March) are due now. **Payments for first quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026.**

IMPORTANT DATES:
March 31, 2026: 11:30 a.m. Deadline for 1st Quarter Dues



IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY – **Meetings.**

Regular E Board- The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, March 9, 2026, @ 5:30pm.

Regular Meeting –The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Monday, Mar 9, 2026.

Office Closings – The hall will be closed March 16-19, 2026. If you need anything during this time, please call Dylan O'Dwyer at 231-649-9157

Resale Items –We still have Tee shirts for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.

Retiree breakfast- Several of the retirees meet at Sparky's Diner off of South Airport road every Monday morning at 9am. So, if you are retired or not and want to join in the conversations and possibly some old wives' tales or other embellished stories, show up at Sparky's.

Scholarship – Past charter member Brother Bob Dost has a scholarship ‘Robert Paul Dost Scholarship Endowment’ for High School seniors in the 5-county area around Traverse City. To access it go to www.gttrcf.org/scholarships/. Local 498 Union members' children get preference to the endowment. A huge thank you in Memory of Bob Dost for his generosity and being a great union member.

Service Pins – Service Pins are still available at the union hall for those members who have not received them. Stop by and get yours today!

Email Addresses - Any member that would like to have Local 498 forward communication to them from the International, Local 498, AFL-CIO or the Building Trades, to help stay informed to current events, politics, contracts, work, etc. Please call or email your current email address to Local 498 at ibew@local498.net

Important numbers for you to write in your address book:

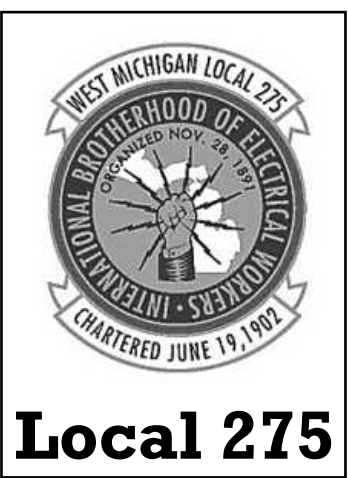
MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 Fax 1-952-854-1632 Website: www.michiganelectrical.org

MEEPP (MI Pension) 1-855-633-4584

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan)
3001 Metro Drive Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55425
NEBF 1-301-556-4300
NEAP 1-301-556-4300
IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

DUES RATES. Jan 1, 2026 – \$164.10/Quarter.

Info Updates – Any member with a new address, phone number, email address, etc. should contact Local 498 with these changes.



IBEW Local 275

MUSKEGON – **Work Outlook:** Work in the jurisdiction remains steady for journeymen with calls on the job recorder regularly. Please continue to call the job line if you are seeking work in Local 275.

We have solar calls coming weekly for both Hart and Freshwater solar as well as local contractors picking up jobs.

Volunteer Info: With the new year please keep in mind volunteer reward points have reset. We will keep updating any opportunities for volunteer events as we get them.

Please join us for the St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday March 14. We will be walking the route with other unions and love to have a big presence. The parade does count as a community service for apprentices!

The annual wild game dinner to support the United Way is also underway and will be held April 2nd at 6pm. If you have any wild game to donate, please let Geoff at the hall know. The body approved 28 tickets this year and are done first come first serve with a maximum of 2 per member. Please remember that if you take a ticket to show up and bring cash for auctions!

West Michigan RENEW/EWMC: Meetings will be held monthly on the 4th Tuesday of every month, 6pm via ZOOM. The ZOOM link will be available on Local 275 Members Only Facebook group as well as on the Local 275 Mobile app. The EWMC have a challenge coin that is for sale at the hall as well! \$20, cash only while supplies last. If you have any interest in helping re-launch the Local 275 Renew committee, please reach out to Mark at the union hall.

Veterans' Committee: Meeting will be held monthly on the 4th Tuesday of every month, 6pm. Please keep an eye on the app for locations.

Training: Code update will only be available online only going forward. Please go to the JATC website at www.wmejatc.org and click the Code Update Course link to sign up. The cost for members is \$40.

The JATC is now offering master's Exam Prep courses. Please reach out to the JATC for more information. wmjatc@gmail.com

Anyone interested in signing up for Foreman training or Steward training, please reach out to Jonas at the Hall to get on the list.

General Info: If you want to get added to our blast email list, please reach out to Nicole at the Hall to get on the list.

For any members still using the 1-800 number to call the Union Hall Offices, please note that we removed that line several months ago. If you are having trouble reaching the office, please double check that you aren't using that number.

As a reminder, the Local Union Hall offices have changed their hours. The offices will be open from 8am-12:30pm, 1pm-4:30pm.

Monthly dues are still \$50.90 per month, and as of this writing we have not heard of an increase. If you pay for 1 years dues at once, there is a challenge coin that can be picked up at the hall.

Delinquent Members: At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Henri Creed, Ruban Cortez, and Chris Hanson - Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can

“Natural ability without education has more often attained to glory and virtue than education without natural ability.”
–Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC)

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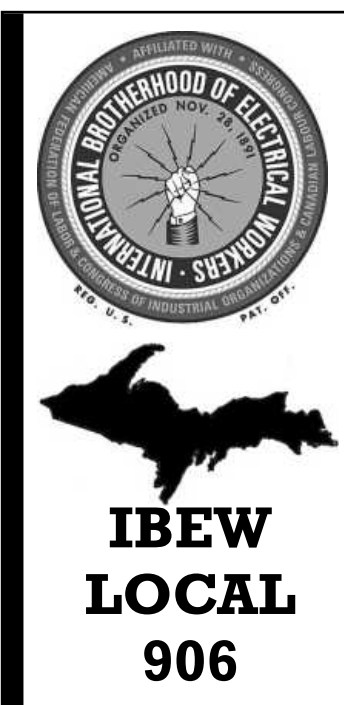
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IBEW Local 906

UPPER PENINSULA—MEETINGS

There will be normal unit meetings in March:

First Tuesday- 7:00pm 119 S Front St, Marquette, MI EST

Second Tuesday- 7:00pm 1800 N Stephenson Ave, Iron Mountain, MI CST

Second Wednesday- 7:00pm 1219 1st Avenue S Escanaba, MI EST

For the month of March there will be normal unit meetings.

Work Outlook- 2026 is off to a slow start but will be ramping up come spring time. Upcoming projects include Amazon warehouse in Escanaba, Harden Hall 1st floor remodel in Marquette, VA Hospital in Marquette, Crystal Falls Compressor Station, Tilden Mine Tray Replacement.

We currently have a 1 man call for Michels Power in Crystal Falls. Please call the hall 906-226-7497 if you're interested in this call.

IBEW Local 906 accepts book 2 signing via email. Please email cfeuryibew906@gmail.com for all book 2 signings.

Union Hall Hours of Operation- Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm.

Merchandise- To all members interested, we have merchandise at the hall. It can be picked up or coordinated to be brought to a union meeting. Payment can be done in person, over the phone, or on the website/app under the Merchandise order form page. All products are available for viewing on the website/app.

Retiree Lunch- There is a retiree lunch the third Thursday of each month at Vierling Restaurant in Marquette at 11 am EST.

Website/App- We have a new website and mobile app. Please reference those new tools for any new announcements and updates within the local. The website can be found at ibew906.org and the app can be found under IBEW 906. Dues payments can also be made through the app and website. If you are in arrears, you will not be able to pay on the app or website. If you have any questions or are having trouble with the app please call the hall. There is a 2026 Negotiations Survey under the Announcements tab on the Website and App, we encourage everybody to submit what they would like to see in these upcoming negotiations.

RENEW- There is a RE-NEW (Reach out and Engage Next Generation Electrical Workers) zoom meeting held the first Thursday of every month at 8:00 pm est. To get the zoom link please reference the calendar section of the app or website.

Union Dues- A friendly reminder that dues are \$49.00 per month. Please keep this in mind if you are mailing a check for dues payment. There will be no Dues increase for 2026.

Fringe Benefits- Please make sure to make sure your beneficiaries are updated, especially if you've recently been married, divorced, had children etc. Beneficiary forms can be obtained at the union hall.

New Journeyman- Congratulations to local 906's newest Journeyman, Ben Chaloner!



SETTING UP UNDERGROUND CONDUIT riser at the Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building project in Farmington Hills is Amber Larivee of IBEW Local 58. She's employed by Advantage Electric.



IBEW LOCAL 58



IBEW 58
DETROIT - **The next General Membership meeting:** will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Parking will continue to be tight with the construction project well under way.

UPDATE – Sub Pay has been resumed for Inside & Limited Energy. **If you have any questions, please contact the Local 58 Union Hall 313-963-2130.** If you have any questions regarding the Port Huron office, please contact Business Agent Paul Ledsworth at 313-802-4970.

IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers-are available for purchase. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, extension 3015.

Local 58 Dues Department – Look at your Dues Receipt. If your paid through date shows 09-30-25, you are not current, owe a \$30 reinstatement fee, and will lapse membership on 04-1-26 if they are not paid by then. If your paid through date shows 12-31-2025, you are not current and will have a reinstatement fee of \$30.00 if they are not paid by 01-1-26. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. Dues statements will be mailed this week for the second quarter dues for 2026. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number. Thank you!

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: The March Board meeting is on Wednesday, March 11 at 10 a.m. in the conference room at the union hall. All are welcome.

The March luncheon is taking place at Mama Mia's-Livonia, 27770 Plymouth Rd., on Wednesday, March 25. Doors open at 11, lunch is served at 12:30. Tickets are \$25 per person, send your checks and reservations to the address below. We appreciate all of your who reserve your space in advance of the luncheons. Questions, call Elaine Crawford, 313 408-5885.

All retirees who will be receiving 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75-year pins at our Annual Pin Party on Saturday, April 25 at the local union hall, will be receiving an invitation in March. Mark your calendars now, to save the date. If you aren't receiving a pin, you are still welcome to attend the luncheon, honorees will be our guest (with RSVP), all others will need reservations, the cost is \$25 per person (payable to the Retirees Association), mail your reservations and checks to IBEW #58, Attn. Retirees Association, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit MI, 48232-0756. Questions, call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885.

Dues expired on 12/31/2025, dues are \$8 per person (spouse is an additional \$8). A renewal form is in the March Newsletter, send your dues (checks payable to the Retirees Association) to the address above, Attn. Retirees.

Details are set for our annual bus trip to New York City. The trip is Thursday, Sept. 10 through Wednesday, Sept. 16. Cost per person, double occupancy is \$1050. Send in your \$75 per person deposit (checks payable to the Retirees Association) to hold your space, send it to 22700 Grove St., St. Clair Shores, 48080. Balance of trip is due July 3. Questions, call Dave Riley, 586 206-8075.

Electrical Workers' Joint Boards of Trustees – Any questions regarding Local 58 Pension, Annuity, Health insurance or Life insurance should be directed to the IBEW Local 58 Fund Office at 586-575-9200. They also distribute the 1099R tax form for the Local 58 Pension.

Detroit Electrical Industry Training Center- Know anyone interested in learning the Elec-

trical Trade? Please contact the Training Center at 586-751-6600 for information on Apprenticeship and training opportunities.

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF): Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund will have their next meeting on Tuesday, April 7.

Again, another BIG THANK YOU to everyone that came out for our Annual Ken Fitzhenry party on Super Bowl Sunday. New this year some sponsorships were offered for this event. A special thank you to Motor City Electric and IBEW Local 58 for being Gold Sponsors. GenCo was a Bronze Sponsor. Thanks again for your continued support.

The deadline is quick approaching for the 3rd Annual John Mayernik Scholarship. This is available to any apprentice 2nd year or higher. The winning Apprentice will receive a \$2000 check to be used at their discretion. The deadline to turn in your application is March 15. For more information or an application please contact Mike Bellhorn at 313-963-2130 ext 3042 or Kelly Lynch, 313-963-2130 ext 3023.

Next events coming up are the Walleye Tournament on Saturday, May 2 and the Gaudi Open golf outing on Friday, June 5. Look for details coming soon.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10 at 5:30p.m. The Wobly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 a.m. to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail). Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10 following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m.

EWMC of Southeastern MI – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 16 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. The fourth coin in the series for our challenge coin fundraiser is now available for sale. Our IBEW car flags are also in. We will be selling them at any upcoming union events and Membership meetings.

Our DPSCD March Reading event will take place on Friday, March 13 (313 Day). All volunteers must register on the DPSCD Volunteer portal to have clearance to participate in the event. If you have any questions please reach out to Byron Osborn or Felicia Wiseman.

A big THANK YOU to those who attended the "Developing Futures Summit: From Potential to Power" at Developing K.I.D.S. The children are our future and they need to always see us representing in a positive way.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, March 9 at 5:30 PM.

The IBEW Veterans Committee serves all those who have served, building community and strengthening veteran voices within the IBEW and throughout the entire electrical industry. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm at the hall with an option to attend via Zoom. At our next meeting we plan on reviewing the Veterans Committee field manual that has been put together by the I/O.

In recognition of service to

country and union, all IBEW members who have served in the military can claim their free challenge coin by visiting the website: <https://ibew.org/about-ibew/affinity-groups/veterans-committees/>

Local 58's Women's Committee – The next meeting will be Thursday, March 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org

The Political Action Committee: PAC meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the Hall at 5:30 pm. You can reach out to our registrars at registrar1@ibew58.org.

The RENEW Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings take place every Wednesday at the IBEW Local 58 Union Hall, (1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226), starting at 6:00 pm. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. All trades welcome.

Electrical Workers Credit Union: Our website is <http://WWW.EWCU.NET> (313) 963-6060.

NEW SYSTEM UPGRADE! You will notice several changes including: Account Numbers-Your existing base account number(s) will remain unaffected by our system upgrade.

In the market for a loan? Check us out at ewcu.net for our low rates! New auto as low as 4.99% APR.

UPCOMING EVENT: The CHOOCH Foundation Partners with IBEW Local 58. The CHOOCH Foundation is partnering with IBEW Local 58 to bring the upcoming A Mind in Motion: Mental Health Maintenance Fair to the Local 58 Union Hall in Detroit. The event will bring together trades families and community members for a day focused on mental wellness, connection, and practical support. Founded in honor of Justin Shilling, the organization was created with a clear mission: break the stigma surrounding mental health and provide real, accessible tools that help individuals and families thrive.

A Mind in Motion: A Community Event with Purpose. The fair brings together local licensed professionals, wellness practitioners, and community resource organizations to introduce families to a wide range of wellness resources in one place. Event Details: June 6, IBEW Local 58 – 1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226, 10 AM – 4 PM For more information, visit: www.thechooch.org.

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Jamie Franzel, Kevin Lamb, Lorie Leonetti, Dwayne Miller and Richard Riddle.

Members that have Passed Away: Our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of our fallen Brothers and Sisters. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.

Werner Boelk, Pension member, 48 year IBEW membership; **Michael Franklin**, Pension member, 57 year IBEW membership; **Barbara Hudson**, Widow to the late Pension member Walter Hudson; **Kenneth Jones**, Pension member, 61 year IBEW membership and **Thomas Polgar**, Pension member, 57 year IBEW membership. Our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of our fallen Brothers and Sisters.



Local 149

Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers Local 149

DETROIT – Attention. This paper is to serve as an official notice to the membership.

General Membership Meeting. The general membership meeting is set for Tues., Apr. 7, 2026, at 7 p.m., 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216.

At this meeting, we will officially take proposals from the membership on how to allocate the \$2.10 per hour. If you have a specific distribution in mind, please come prepared to present your suggestion.

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is Tues., Apr. 7, 6 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

Mid-Michigan. The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 14, 2026, at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

At this meeting, we will officially take proposals from the membership on how to allocate the \$2.90 per hour. If you have a specific distribution in mind, please come prepared to present your suggestion.

Condolences. It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of the following Brother. Brother Richard Weir was 78 years old and a 35-year member. Brother Weir passed on 1/30/2026. Rest in Peace Brother. Thank you for your years of service.

I Paid My Dues T-shirts. Good things come to those who wait! For those of you who qualified for a free T-shirt by paying your yearly dues in full, we haven't forgotten you. The shirts are currently running late from the printer, but we are working hard to get them into your hands as soon as possible. Keep an eye out for a distribution announcement in the paper soon. We appreciate your patience and, more importantly, your membership!

Clearance Cards. Are you scheduled to go out of town for work in another Local's territory? Clearance cards are needed when you are sent out of town to work. Get a clearance card from the Hall and we will contact the Local in that area to avoid fines against you.

Detroit Training Center Information. Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center. If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Training Center, 248-543-3847.

Mid-Michigan Training Center Information

Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Mid-Michigan LU 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center. If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Union Hall/Training Center, 810-687-1368 to make arrangements.

Out-Of-Work. When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up-to-date phone number. All Detroit Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (313) 961-6093 ext. 0 to be put on the out of work list. All Mid-Michigan Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (810) 687-1368 to be put on the out of work list.

Outdoor Life. If you have any hunting and fishing pictures that you would like to see in the Journeyman Roofing & Waterproofing magazine, please contact the Union Hall at 313.961.6093 ext. 0, for additional information.

Are you moving? If you have a new address please make sure to let the Union Hall know. We will take care of your account with the Union Hall that includes the Building Tradesman Paper, International Union, and Trust Fund.

Reminder. Members please call the Hall when you see a roofing project whether it is one of our signatory companies or not. The Hall needs this information for recruitment purposes, and hopefully to get a picture of our members for Facebook. The publication above is as 3/2/2026, 11:00am

In Solidarity, Brian Gregg, Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local No.149

LiUNA!

Feel the Power

Local 1191

Laborers Local 1191

(2161 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48208)

LABORERS RISING: Laborers Rising is a powerful initiative focused on building power and making a difference with our fellow sisters and brothers. Through Laborers Rising, Laborers Local 1191 will be asking its Membership to volunteer their time to support various issues that enhance the lives of working families. If you wish to join our Laborers Rising volunteer list, please call the Local Union at (313) 894-2241 M-F 8:00am – 4:00pm to provide necessary contact information.

Regular Membership Updates: Please check out our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org and the "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page for important information about your Local Union.

Member Personal Information Updates: Be sure to keep the Local Union updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and/or email.

Monthly General Membership Meetings: All General Membership Meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208 (except for holidays), unless the Membership receives notice of a meeting cancellation, rescheduling and/or a venue change. **The April General Membership meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2026. The General Membership Meeting for May will be held on the 1st of May, 2026.**

Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11:00 am at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The March Retiree Council Meeting is scheduled for the 27th of March, 2026. The Retiree Council Meeting for April 2026 is scheduled for April 24, 2026.** **Union Dues For 2025:** Regular monthly dues are **\$35.00 for Active Members.** Retiree monthly dues will remain the same **\$8.00.** Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org!!! To make online dues payments, click the "Pay Dues" tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.

Important Notice Regarding Dues Payments: According to the Uniform Local Union Constitution Article VIII sec. 4. The monthly dues are due on the first day of the month and unless paid on or before the last day of the following month, the member will be suspended by the International Union without notice. **To better serve our membership, the Local accepts in-person Cash, Credit and Debit payments.**

Save Time & Money: We urge members to make their payments timely to avoid additional costs! Monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check and sent directly to the Local Union. Please stop by the Local Union office to get one of the "Vacation Monthly Dues Deduction" forms or you may call the Local Union office at **(313)-894-2241** to have one mailed to you. **FYI: Members who sign up for Vacation deduction and pay (6) months at a time will receive a 1-month rebate!!!**

New Projects: Members are urged to report the start of any/all new projects to the Local Union. Members working for a contractor who may be looking to hire additional laborers are urged to call the Union Hall and help a brother or sister get referred out to work. The next time, it may be your name on the list when that call comes in for work.

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm to put their name on the Out-of-Work list. You must have an Out-of-Work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. **FYI: It is the Member's responsibility to regularly notify the Local Union of any changes to his/her skillsets. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not!**



Local 169

Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will take place on **March 13, 2026, at 8 pm** at Boilermakers Union Hall. The address is 1755 Fairlane Dr., Allen Park, 48101.

Monthly dues will stay at our current rate of 55.85 for 2026.

May 16, 2026, at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Hotel in Mount Pleasant. The cost for a room is \$279 make sure you use boiler-maker code **BM051526**. There are a limited number of rooms, so please book soon. If you plan on attending, please send a check or money order in the amount of

\$50 to the union hall with the number of attendees for you. We need you to send checks to confirm your attendance as it gives us an accurate number of people eating. We will return your check to you when

you arrive. If you use a money order and show up, we can put it towards your monthly dues.

Nominations for delegates for the 35th Consolidated Convention will be held at our regular union meeting March 13- 8 pm at the Union Hall.

Congratulations to all our new journeyman which graduated from the apprenticeship March 1, 2026.

OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website – www.boilermakerslocal169.com- for more information.

Any member interested in getting the Great Lakes Safety background check for Corteva please contact Business Agent, Jim Calouette at (906) 428-2880.

Any members interested in EPRI Rigging, which is required for working in the Nuclear Plants. Please contact Tony Herrera at 616-296-9131, or Jamie Ratliff at 313-584-8520. Your name will be added to the list. Once we have a full class, you will be notified when and where to attend. Per your International, any member with EPRI training will not be required to have Rigging 1 through 4 for placement on the BDS.

Retiree luncheons:

Area 1 Retiree luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11 am at the White Rhino Sports Bar, 4328 Oakwood, Melvindale, 48122.

Area 2 Retirees hold luncheons on the first Thursday of every month at 11am at Whitlow's Forerunner Restaurant, 4610 Airline Rd, Muskegon MI. All retirees and members from all areas are welcome to attend.

Area 3 Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11AM. The next lunch will be on March 18 at the 702 Bar, 702 Jefferson Ave., Midland 48640 As always, everyone from all areas is welcome to attend.

Area 4 Retirees' lunches are on the first Tuesday of the month at 11am in Rapid River at Jacks Restaurant 7898 S. Main St., Rapid River, MI. Area 4 retirees also meet in Marquette on the second Tuesday of the month at 11am at Crossroads Bar, the corner of County Rd 553 and County Rr. 480.

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$50 XL and smaller 55 for 2XL, 60 for 3XL and 70 for 4XL. Payments can be made with cash or a check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Contact the Union Hall for details.

The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at www.boilermakerslocal169.org or on our Facebook page.

The cost of your T.W.I.C. card is reimbursable from the M.O.R.E. Fund. Contact the Union Hall for reimbursement.

Any current apprentice eligible to utilize their G.I. Bill should contact their branch of service regarding this benefit. Your apprenticeship training qualifies for reimbursement under the G.I. Bill.

Retired member, Paul Elowsky passed away Feb. 14, 2026. Please keep his family in your thoughts during this difficult time.



MICHAEL CARD



Local 25

Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25
SOUTHFIELD – UNION MEETING: The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

We will be having a \$5.00 per ticket 50/50 raffle, with the proceeds benefiting the Breath of Life Foundation to support research for mesothelioma, lung cancer, and other asbestos related diseases.

S.U.B. FUND: The March 12, 2026, membership meeting will be open for further discussion regarding the proposed S.U.B. Fund distribution. Please ensure your Election of Choice for S.U.B. Fund Benefits document is received by **March 13, 2026.**

WEBSITE: Visit our updated website at www.heatfrostinsulators.org to access helpful links and additional member resources.

CONTACT UPDATE: We are now using admin@heatfrostinsulators25.org as our primary email address for all communication with the Union Hall.

Please update your contact records accordingly.

JOB STARTS: As stated in Local 25’s Constitution & Bylaws Article III Section 5. Failure to report a job start will automatically result in a fine of \$50. Future failures to report a job start will result in the amount of the fine being levied left to the discretion of the President. **PLEASE** call in all job starts so we can avoid fining members.

PER CAPITA: Please be reminded that any member working 32 hours or less during a month must pay their own Per Capita of \$14.00 per month.

Per Capita payments should be made on a **monthly** basis. If a member works as a traveler in another Local’s jurisdiction, the member must remit double Per Capita of \$28.00.

Please forward payments **monthly** to Local 25, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

M.U.S.T. SAFETY MODULES: If you have modules expiring, contact the Union Hall to have the testing authorization activated. Please keep in mind, any modules completed outside the quarter requested in, will be paid the following quarter.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes including hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall within forty-eight hours. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out-of-work list and your employment records remain current and correct. Failure to report will result in an automatic \$50 fine.

BENESYS: When calling the Fund Office, Benesys, please be sure to get the name of the representative providing you information.



Local 47

Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47

LANSING – The next Regular Meeting will be Friday, March 13, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., and will be held at the Local 47 Union Hall located at 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

Please make sure to call or text ALL Start/Layoffs to the Union Office. Leave the start/layoff date and the name of the contractor along with your name.

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. There are several members who have the number blocked and therefore are not receiving the Robo Calls. These calls are only used for Important notifications from the Local Union Business Manager and Funeral Notifications. If you are not receiving these calls, please contact the Local Union Office and we will double check to make sure we have the correct number in the system or if you may have blocked the number. Please notify the Local Union Office with any phone and home address changes. We need the most current member information throughout our system, TIC’s, and the with the International.

If you are Non-Active retiree or Surviving Spouse and would like to continue receiving the Building Tradesman please contact the Union Office to let us know. **(Continued next column)**



INSULATING A DUCT at the Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building project in Farmington Hills is Chase Koppen of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25. He’s employed by Rival Insulation.

Local 47, con’t

The Funds Trustees have waived the 79 hour rule for all Retirees effective July 1, 2025.

DENTAL BENEFIT CHANGE NOTIFICATION:

Starting January 1, 2026 all Active and Retired Participants will now have Delta Dental as your Dental Provider. You will be receiving a welcome packet along with your card in the mail shortly if you have not already. Your dental information will no longer be attached to your health insurance card. The card you are being provided will not be necessary when using Delta Dental services, providing your Social Security number/card to a

participating provider will be sufficient. Any Annual or lifetime benefits that were already utilized with Blue Dental will be carried over to the new coverage. If you have any further questions please call our Pension/Welfare Trustee Joshua Kroell, (989) 385-2671. Congratulations to Jacob McCormick and his wife Carsyn on the birth of their daughter Stoney!

Per the Rules and Procedures: Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed, you can do so by calling or texting the office at (517) 708-0665 with your layoff date and the name of the Contractor you were laid off from.

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

Pension and Health Welfare: Joshua Kroell (989) 385-2671
Allied Workers’ Local 47, Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive. Lansing, MI 48917-9275
Telephone: (517) 321-7502
Email: joshkroell@insulators47.com

Joshua Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Joshua is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (989) 385-2671, or by mail at: 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

Why are OSHA probes, fines down?

(Continued from Page 1)
or reduce citations for a certain type of violation.

Over the last year, the Trump Administration has proposed massive cuts to OSHA’s funding, threatening the agency’s ability to effectively oversee more than 8 million worksites across the country.

At the same time, the Department of Labor has rolled out a de-regulatory agenda that proposes to get rid of many regulations

that keep American workers safe, including:

- Eliminating the authority of the Mine Safety and Health Administration – which protects coal miners from hazards like black lung disease – to require mine operators to ensure proper ventilation and prevent roof collapses in mines;
- Announced plans to eliminate requirements for adequate lighting on construction sites— even though about one of every

20 construction worker deaths are caused by visibility issues, including poor lighting. Construction is the leading sector for worker fatalities;

• Announced plans to limit OSHA’s ability to hold employers accountable for unsafe working conditions in inherently unsafe professions; and

• Loosened respirator requirements for workers exposed to carcinogens, lead, asbestos, and formaldehyde.

U.S. unions eke out modest membership gain

(Continued from Page 1)

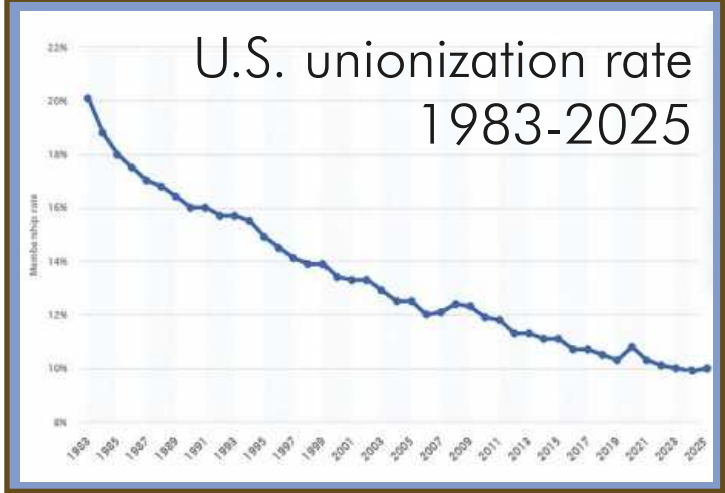
Committee Democrats have consistently been reporting that government job losses have reached about 300,000. About 1 million federal government workers have lost collective bargaining rights under the Trump Administration, spurred on by Elon Musk’s chainsaw and the cuts made by the Department of Government Efficiency.

“Unionization grew in 2025 despite the nation’s broken system of labor law and the most anti-union president in history,” said Heidi Shierholz, president of the labor-backed Economic Policy Institute and a former Labor Department chief economist. “And in response to the Trump Administration’s aggressive attacks on federal employees and their unions, federal workers increasingly turned to collective representation. The increase is a testament to working people’s resolve and the fact that unions are recognized as critical instruments for building a fair economy.”

U.S. union membership reached all-time lows in 2023 and 2024 and has been declining for decades. But union membership has consistently been bolstered by steady employment among government employees: city, county, state and federal. Trump’s wholesale firings last year of federal workers has skewed those unionization numbers, at least for one year.

In 2025, the number of unionized private-sector workers in the U.S. (7.38 million, up 154,000 in a year) outnumbered the public sector unionists (7.28 million, up 255,000). Again, BLS cautioned, the shutdown affected its survey, and the firings wiped out a big chunk of public sector union workers.

“Billionaire bosses and union-busting politicians have tried to throw the kitchen sink at working people and their unions – slashing our jobs and rigging the rules to scare us out of organizing – but they are failing,” said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. “Working people are



experiencing relentless attacks on our freedoms and our livelihoods.

“These numbers confirm what we’ve seen in the labor movement: Workers have felt President Trump’s billionaire-first agenda in action and are hungry to take back their power. Workers know that the best check on a bad boss is a strong union contract. In 2026, workers will continue to organize in every corner of the country and build power to fight for the lives they deserve.”

Nationwide, the BLS numbers reveal that union density is strongest in a few East Coast, Western and Great Lakes states.

They also reveal that Michigan’s union density is slipping: BLS numbers show union penetration in Michigan’s workforce dropped from 13.4 percent in 2024 (581,000 members) to 13.0 percent in 2025 (566,000 members). Michigan’s unionization rate, which was commonly in the top five or 10 states likely since the 1930s, was tied for No. 13 in 2025.

The states with the highest union density in their workforce in 2025 included Hawaii (24.8 percent); New York (21.3 percent), and Alaska (18.1 percent).

Among the anti-union bottom feeders, South Dakota’s 2.3 percent unionization rate was the lowest among the states. The two Carolinas, which typically sit at the bottom of the unionization rankings, were close behind. No. 49 on the list was North Carolina

(2.5 percent) and No. 48 was South Carolina (2.7 percent).

The Economic Policy Institute gave a shout-out to some states in the South, which collectively, and traditionally, are strongholds of anti-union sentiment. But in 2025, some – but certainly not all – showed signs of warming up to labor unions. “In 2025, however, this long-standing pattern showed potential signs of erosion,” the EPI said, “as the South accounted for close to half (46 percent) of all net gains nationwide. The region added 214,000 unionized workers, compared with 249,000 in the rest of the country combined.”

Georgia’s union penetration rate went from 3.8 percent to 5.1 percent. Louisiana’s rate rose from 3.9 to 4.4 percent. And here’s looking at you, Texas, wherein the BLS reported a gain of 70,000 new unionists, moving its union penetration numbers up from 4.5 percent in 2024 to 4.9 percent in 2025.

“The Texas labor movement is steadily growing – all despite (Governor) Greg Abbott’s anti-worker attacks, broken labor laws, and corporate union busting,” said Texas AFL-CIO President Leonard Aguilar. “We can change our state for the better by investing in and growing our union movement, because as Texas goes, so does the country. Our work to organize Texas workplaces and build worker power is more important than ever before.”



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ANYONE WORKING ON A construction trades job knows it: the work is physically demanding; employment can vary from crazy-busy to stints of unemployment; and it’s all wrapped up in a male-dominant, tough guy culture that isn’t especially quick to talk about feelings and pain.

What have these factors, plus others, resulted in? High rates of workplace injuries, reliance on painkillers, depression, and suicides.

It’s not a pretty picture, though trends indicate a better direction.

It’s Personal

Tim Ochalek, now retired from the Bricklayers and Allied Crafts (BAC) Local 2 and current AEPC Chair, sadly remembers a friend who actually mentored others in the trade. As a recovering alcoholic, his friend knew he was more susceptible to the addictive nature of painkillers. So, when he was hurt on the job he refused to take them. But living with the pain was debilitating, both physically and emotionally. It led to a downward spiral that eventually ended in him taking his life by suicide.

“It’s a tough thing for guys to talk about weakness. You’re used to living a hard life and you’re tough. But if you can just get them to talk, confidential help is available,” says Ochalek. And alongside the tragedy Ochalek spoke about, he also knows of at least one other building trades worker who successfully fought a descent into depression by utilizing the Union’s Member Assistance Program (MAP).

Ochalek stated that other trades have their own versions of Member Assistance Programs, and they are valuable resources, sometimes including confidential, direct access to licensed clinicians.

Ugly – But Improving – Stats

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports there were 167,000 non-fatal injuries or illnesses reported among construction workers in 2024, which is slightly better than

Construction Work Is Tough But Don’t Let It Kill You

More and more, asking for mental health help isn’t viewed as a failing, but what strong individuals do to turn around a difficult situation. A union Member Assistance Program may be able to provide confidential help or referrals.

2023, when there were 173,200. Falls, slips and trips account for the majority of construction accidents, which is often the beginning of a host of other problems such as addiction to painkillers and drug overdoses, unemployment, depression, and suicide.

Data from the Center for Construction Research and Training indicates death by suicide among construction workers is alarmingly high – about four times higher than the general population. There were 5,000 suicide deaths in 2024, slightly better than the 5,100 suicides in 2023. A larger downward trend for drug-related overdose deaths took place in 2024, declining over 25 percent, to about 4,600 lives lost.

Identifying Stressors

The scientific journal *Workplace Health & Safety* published an article in 2025 that identified these major contributors to physical and emotional stressors faced by construction workers:

- Job insecurity, due to the project-based nature of construction work;
- Long and irregular working hours, often leading to poor work-life balance;
- High job demands and time pressures which can contribute to workplace injuries;
- Workplace bullying and poor supervisor support;
- Substance use, especially heavy alcohol consumption.

All of these factors impact both male and female construction workers, though females make up only about 10 percent of the construction workforce, and therefore, in total numbers, males dominant

the sobering statistics regarding drug overdoses and suicides. Still, data from Center for Construction Research and Training indicate that female construction workers have higher rates of anxiety and depression (34.9 percent) than their male counterparts (12.8 percent).

Start a Conversation

Often times, it’s a coworker who notices sudden changes in behavior or hears someone talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live. Even though coworkers aren’t trained professionals, they can start a conversation. Express your concern about the behavior you’ve observed and gently but directly ask, “Are you thinking about suicide?”

The point of starting the conversation is to help the distressed person feel that someone cares and that help is available. Never promise to keep their thoughts about suicide a secret, or minimize the problem by saying “get over it,” or “toughen up.” Do promise to help them find professional help, and as noted earlier in this article, a good place to start can be your local union’s Member Assistance Program (MAP).

More and more, asking for help isn’t viewed as a failing, but what strong individuals do to turn around a difficult situation. Assuring confidential, professional assistance that won’t jeopardize someone’s job has already started to reverse the high rates of injuries, drug and alcohol problems, depression, and suicides in construction. Let’s build on this.

If you or someone you know needs immediate help, call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. They provide free and confidential support 24/7.

AEPC is a labor-management purchasing coalition with a proven track record of delivering the best price, service and expertise for benefits. For more info about our programs and health and wellness information, visit our website: www.aepc.us or on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn.



BAC Local 2 WARREN – UPCOMING MEETINGS.
HOUGHTON MEETING: March Meeting is **CANCELLED**

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 6 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, March 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855



BRETT GIERAK FLINT CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 24, at 6 PM, 1300 W Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706.

WEDNESDAY, April 1, 2026, at 7:30 PM, 1701 W Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

LANSING CHAPTER: Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 6 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

METRO DETROIT CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 5:30 pm, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:00pm, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Doug Gettleston** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 2/14/2026. Brother Gettleston had been a member for over 60 years, serving as a Business Agent for the BAC over 10 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Richard Bowen** (Bricklayer, Stone Mason and Cement Mason) who passed away on 12/05/2025. Brother Bowen had been a member for over 63 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Bruce Milke** (Bricklayer & Stone Mason) who passed away on 12/13/2025. Brother Milke had been a member for over 61 years.

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Nicholas Frey** (Bricklayer) who passed away 12/29/2025. Brother Frey had been a member for more than 74 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Bernard Brown** (Bricklayer and Stone Mason) who passed away on 02/09/2026. Brother Brown had been a member for over 48 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Kirk Schnettler** (Bricklayer) who passed away 02/05/2026. He had been a member for over 32 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother David Wise** (Bricklayer and Stone Mason) who passed away on 02/01/2026. Brother Wise had been a member for over 62 years.

2026 BAC LOCAL 2 SCHOLARSHIP. The Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union, Local 2 Michigan is proud to announce the 2026 BAC Local 2 Scholarship. This scholarship is open to ALL dependents of good standing members, statewide, from all of the trades. To be eligible, the following guidelines must be followed and information submitted to the **BAC Local 2 WARREN office** located at **21031 Ryan Road, Warren MI 48091**. Deadline for applicant submission is **12:00pm on Friday, March 27, 2026:**

Applicant must be a legal dependent of a good standing **ACTIVE** member who has either:

Worked and received union contributions on or after September 2025 or;

Retired from actively working on or after January 2025.

The member must be current, up to date, with their monthly union dues.

Applicants must be attending an institute of **higher education: college or university**. *High school students are not eligible for this scholarship.*

Applicant must be a **full-time student**, enrolled in 12 or more credits, during the **Winter 2026 Semester**. A copy of

the **Class Schedule** showing full-time status must be submitted. **NOTE: Classes listed on the Official Transcript will not be considered as a class schedule.**

A class schedule lists the number of credits, classes, dates, times, instructor and location where the class meets. Student's name, semester and the name of the college/university must be on the schedule. If the applicant is enrolled in a program that is less than 12 credit hours for the Winter 2026 Semester but considered full time due to an internship or clinical hours, a letter from their institution will be required indicating full time student status.

Applicants must submit an **Official Transcript**, showing their grades from the Fall 2025 Semester. An Official Transcript comes directly from the registrar's office in a **sealed envelope**. Please allow ample time for the registrar's office to prepare and mail the official transcript; to be received at BAC Local 2 by March 27, 2026. If your institution participates with the National Student Clearinghouse Transcript service, transcripts may be sent to: colleen@bricklayers.org.

Applicant must submit a typed information sheet which will include: Applicant's name, address, email address and telephone number, college/university attending, course of study – major & minor and anticipated graduation date. They must also supply the members information: full name, I.U. number, relationship to the member, address and telephone number, as well as the members branch of trade.

All information must be submitted by **12 pm Friday, March 27, 2026** to the **BAC Local 2 Warren office: 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091**.

Incomplete or late applications will **not** be considered for this scholarship. We are not responsible for late, missing or lost documents. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all documents are received by 12:00pm on Friday, March 27, 2026.

The winners will be selected by the BAC Local 2 Management Committee and announced at the April 2026 Detroit Chapter Meeting.

APPRENTICE HOURS

PORTAL: We have moved the Apprentice Hours Portal to a new platform called WorkHands. You should have received an email or text message with an invitation to join the platform.

All monthly hours must now be submitted through the WorkHands app. After you submit your hours, they will be reviewed by your foreman or superintendent, who will complete an evaluation of your progress before forwarding them to the Training Center.

Submitting your hours monthly through WorkHands is a requirement of your apprenticeship and is necessary to stay on track for your scheduled raises. All submissions must be completed online and include detailed information about the work you performed during the month.

If you need assistance accessing the portal or help submitting your hours, resources are available online at:

<https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/resources>

You may also contact Nate Nestor at (313) 467-5382 for additional support.

For more information about the Training Centers, please visit: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>

BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS: Both of Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members. To make your appointment for your annual **RESPIRATOR FIT TEST**, or for other scheduled appointments at the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Nate Nestor directly at (313) 467-5382. Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org> to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2025 training classes.

UNION DUES: Pay 9 months, get 3 free. To receive the discount, you must be current on dues. **Members will only be able to pay 2 years in advance.**

TEXTING PROGRAM: Sometimes we have time sensitive information (such as job openings, picket lines, funeral arrangements and other such communications) that would be most efficiently done via text message. You must be signed up to receive these messages. You can sign up via the following: Text **2MI** to **50607**. You'll receive a confirmation text.

March 6, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 13



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00 pm. We will be having food and refreshments. There will also be an executive board meeting on the same day at 5:30 pm. Please make every effort to come and fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

Membership Gold Cards- Congratulations! March 2026

Bro. Gregory Brisboy passed away Feb. 7, 2026. He was a 30-year member. Please keep the Brisboy family in your thoughts and prayers.

If you haven't updated your MUST profile, please log in to MUSTsafe.com to update your MUST username and password.

Marcus Martinez is the new Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313)-350-0389 or by email: mmartinez@opcmiami.org

Please contact the local at 248-548-0800 or you can email your updated information to: abest@opcmiami.org Please send your updated information in a timely manner.

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.Mustb-safe.com to see how many modules you have. You must create a new username and password. **We will send ALL MUST drug authorization forms to members email address.**

Please activate your Blue Cross Blue Shield account. To activate your Blue Cross member account online go to bcbsm.com/register and select register now.

Beneficiary Reminder: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice especially after a divorce on all your OPCMIA Local 514, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, and Pension and Healthcare funds. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated

beneficiary.

It is important for all members to keep the Local updated on addresses, email and phone numbers. If you need to change an address or add an email and phone number, please call the local at (248) 548-0800.

Death Certificates: Please always notify the Union Hall with a phone call when a member of the Local has passed away and submit a copy of a Death Certificate for deceased active or retired member.

Attention all Apprentices, now you will need to go to the website: www.micementplasterertraining.com to enter your work hours. When you get to the website click the link "About" and then click on "Apprentice" If you are a Military Veteran, please contact the Local so we can update our records. Please call (248) 548-0800.

The Local's website is: www.opcmiami.org.

Please refer to the website for updated information.

O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has a satellite office in Flint, Michigan. We welcome Member and Contractors in the Flint area to handle their business transactions at: 2630 Grand Traverse, Flint, MI 48503. Appointments may be made by contacting Business Agent Mike Stanfield at (517) 719-2316, or the Business Manager Henry Williams at (313) 215-5063.

Members working for non-signatory commercial contractors are having a negative impact on our market share. The work forecast this year looks better than last. Members working non-union will be brought up on charges and fines will be enforced. Let's work together to secure our future!

We must stay vigilant in our effort to promote our trade. If you are working in a crew of 5 or more an Apprentice must be on the crew. Help out! Call the Local at (248) 548-0800. Training is the key to our future!

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date,

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

BRICKLAYERS

BOILERMAKERS

ELECTRICIANS

INSULATORS

PIPE FITTERS

PLUMBERS

SHEET METAL WORKERS

- ◆ Mesothelioma
- ◆ Lung Cancer
- ◆ Asbestosis
- ◆ Pulmonary Fibrosis
- ◆ Throat Cancer
- ◆ Colon Cancer

As pioneers in asbestos litigation, GPW has filed asbestos lawsuits since 1984, defending the rights of hardworking men and women throughout Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia.

Exposure to asbestos can cause deadly diseases such as MESOTHELIOMA, LUNG CANCER, ABESTOSIS, PULMONARY FIBROSIS, THROAT CANCER, and COLON CANCER.

Many building tradesmen worked with or near asbestos. Some are not aware they were even exposed. Family members may be at risk of bystander exposure.

For more than 30 years, GPW has helped thousands of Michigan workers. We have represented mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestos disease victims, obtaining over \$1 billion in compensation for our clients.

\$1.8 MILLION VERDICT

GPW obtained a **\$1.8 million** verdict in a Lung Cancer claim, the **largest Asbestos Verdict in the history of Michigan Asbestos Litigation.**

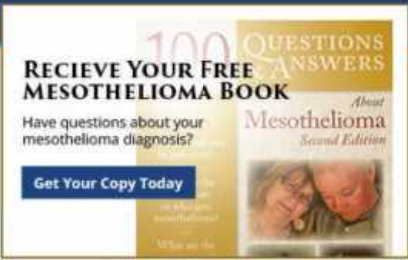
Contact us today:

800-799-2234

www.gpwlaw-mi.com

CONTACT GPW TODAY TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE COPY OF 100 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT MESOTHELIOMA!

For nearly 20 years GPW has offered this FREE resource and guide to mesothelioma victims. Call 800-799-2234 or visit www.gpwlaw-mi.com to request a FREE copy today!



Please don't delay, protect yourself and your family before it's too late. You may be entitled to claim money damages from the responsible members of the asbestos industry. Call for a FREE consultation.



By Jeffrey Jolley
& Marcee Wardell
Michigan DNR

Imagine a reef: sunlight streaming through the azure water reveals a vibrant underwater community, where fish, large and small, dart into holes and crevices or swim around the reef's edges while other aquatic creatures make their homes or search for food.

Did you think of a coral reef, covered in pink anemones and surrounded by brightly colored tropical fish like blue tang and clownfish? Now imagine a reef, with dappled sunlight and teeming with fish, in Lake Huron, in Saginaw Bay. Surprised? Maybe you shouldn't be.

Reefs used to be common in Saginaw Bay, and organizations like the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and others are working to restore reef habitat for the benefit of fish like lake whitefish and walleye, as well as many other aquatic species.

The disappearance of rocky reefs. Though corals did once thrive in the northern Lower Peninsula about 350 million years ago (the remains of which are now Petoskey stones), the reefs that existed in Saginaw Bay were rock reefs. These reefs, mainly comprised of granite and limestone, were formed by the movement of glaciers.

Since Saginaw Bay has an otherwise very flat bottom and a relatively consistent depth, the thousands of acres of reef in the bay were important habitat for the bay's aquatic species, providing places to deposit eggs, hide from predators or find a meal.

Rock reefs are comprised of cobble – rocks that vary in size from about the size of an orange to the size of a basketball, piled and rising from the lake bottom. These stones of different sizes create crevices – called interstitial spaces – and ledges perfect for spawning fish to deposit eggs into and for young fry (newly hatched fish) to hide from predators.

Reefs, depending on their location and depth, can get a lot of wave action. The continual movement of water keeps sediment from building up and filling

Outdoors

A fish-friendlier Saginaw Bay



THE CHANNEL ISLAND REEF shown under construction in Saginaw Bay is about 2.5 acres, and will be studied to see if it will be a favorable spot for fish to lay eggs. The top of the reef sits about 55 feet below the surface of the lake. The month-long project of dropping limestone cobble in the lake was completed Oct. 10. The new reef sits about two miles from the Saginaw River.

(Photo: Zak Allan, Great Lakes Fishery Commission)



LAKE WHITEFISH are shown over a rock reef. It is hoped the crevices will help oxygenation and provide cover for fish eggs to hatch in the Saginaw Bay and the Great Lakes.

(Photo: Inspired Planet Productions)

in those useful interstitial spaces. It also washes oxygenated water over fertilized fish eggs, which they need to develop and hatch into healthy fry.

But what happened to the reefs in Saginaw Bay? They were buried. Logging, industrial and agricultural land uses in the area surrounding the bay exposed sediments, which caused excess erosion and movement of sediment, which washed out into the bay, covering the rocky structures. The solution researchers have arrived at is to restore reef habitat not by resurrecting remnants of former reefs, but by building new ones. This kind of reef restoration work is gaining traction in the Great Lakes and elsewhere.

Walleye decline and recovery strategies. The reef habitat restoration story in Saginaw Bay begins not with a project, but a problem. Historically, walleye were abundant in Saginaw Bay. But in the 1940s, this fish population collapsed due to declines in water quality and habitat, caused by pollution and sedimentation, along with unrestrained fishing.

The opportunity to recover walleye came after the Clean Water Act took effect in the early 1970s and the negative impacts were better managed around in the bay. The DNR began stocking walleye, which boosted the population, but the fishery didn't recover to pre-1940s levels and remained dependent on stocking.

consume much of the phytoplankton that are the base of the food chain – reduced the number of alewives eating walleye fry.

This had a big effect, and reproductive success boomed. Stocking was discontinued in 2006, and by 2009, walleye abundance reached recovery targets. Even though walleye populations were seemingly back to normal, work remained to be done.

Researchers noted that since rock reef habitat was lost in the bay, the walleye that demonstrated sustained reproduction were primarily spawning in the tributary rivers, among them the Saginaw River. That's not ideal, because it makes the walleye population vulnerable to changes in those rivers, like barriers, contamination or natural disasters.

If the river spawning habitat isn't available, the walleye will be unable to reproduce with much success. According to Fielder, whether fish spawn in a river or on a reef is something they likely inherit from their parents, not something they choose based on environmental conditions.

Without preferred spawning habitat, walleye are left to deposit their eggs wherever they can. In the case of the few reef-spawning walleye still hanging on in the bay, this is often on the bottom of the lake.

But eggs on the bottom have a low chance of hatching out into fry, as the dissolved oxygen they need to develop is low and they're not hidden from the predators that like to eat them. Plus, sediment can bury the eggs, just like it buried the former rock reefs. While restoration efforts won't bring back all the rocky reefs once present in the bay, restoring some of that habitat will still be immensely beneficial.

The metaphor project partners have used to describe this is the portfolio effect: Like diversifying your investment portfolio can help you weather volatility in the market, diversification of spawning habitat can help insulate the species from the effects of big ecosystem changes.

The goal isn't necessarily more walleye reproduction but more consistent or dependable walleye reproduction. To ensure a resilient walleye population in Saginaw Bay, walleye need various spawning habitats, both reef and river.

Lake whitefish spawning in

Saginaw Bay. Lake whitefish are an incredibly important species in the Great Lakes and Saginaw Bay, ecologically and culturally, and they are the mainstay of the bay's state-licensed commercial fishery.

However, lake whitefish populations are in decline across the Great Lakes, including Lake Huron, and have been for years – except for in the central and lower half of Lake Huron, which is something of a stronghold for the species. Researchers believe this is likely supported by Saginaw Bay, as it's a crucial spawning location.

While the ecological changes brought on by zebra and quagga mussels, in particular the collapse of alewife, seemingly helped walleye populations, they have not had a positive effect on lake whitefish.

These mussels' voracious consumption of phytoplankton has devastated the zooplankton and benthic macroinvertebrates – small marine animals – that not only alewife but also whitefish fry depend on for early growth. Fry that don't get enough food grow slowly and fail to survive to older ages.

The proliferation of dreissenid mussels has had another effect on the lakes, noticeable even to nonexperts: The water is much clearer. This is due, again, to their feeding habits, pulling zooplankton and algae out of the water.

Clear water might seem pleasant, but it's not good for native fishes like lake whitefish. Additional UV light penetration of the water essentially gives lake whitefish eggs and fry extreme sunburns, which reduce their survival. This effect is magnified by the increase in mild winters as the climate changes. Less ice coverage means even more UV light penetrating the water and harming developing whitefish.

While managing invasive mussels and their impacts on spawning grounds is still experimental (through efforts such as the Great Lakes SWIM project), creating suitable spawning habitats in productive areas like Saginaw Bay should still benefit whitefish.

Whitefish also use reefs for spawning, so like walleye, restored reef habitat will likely improve survival for eggs and fry. Coreyon Reef, an earlier offshore reef project in Saginaw Bay, has already seen whitefish and wall-eye adoption for spawning.

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